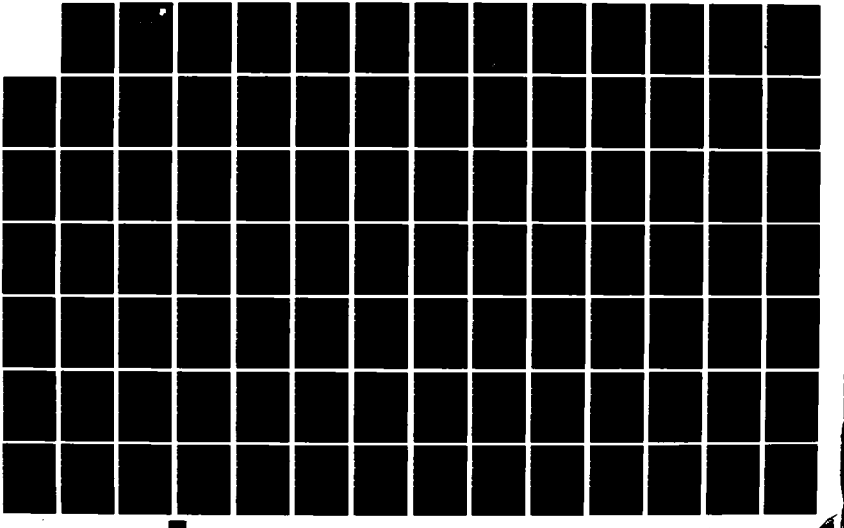
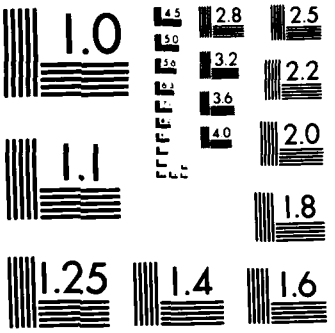
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Final Technical Report
February 1985

TARGET DISCRIMINATION USING INFRARED TECHNIQUES: THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS

State University of New York

Michael J. Duggin and Larry B. Schoch

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This effort provides image processing systems, such as the RADC AFES (Automatic Feature Extraction System) and MIES (Multi-Imagery Exploitation System) testbeds an increased capability for discriminating tactical targets from the surface background in thermal infrared (IR) imagery. This investigation presents theories of the thermal emissivity and reflectivity of natural surfaces and applies these theories to develop a background model. This will hopefully lead to the construction of algorithms to be used as a background information filter to aid in the separation of targets from background.

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1. ABSTRACT

1.1 Objective

The objective of this effort has been to provide to image processing systems, such as the RADC AFES (Automatic Feature Extraction System) and MIES (Multi-Imagery Exploitation System) testbeds an increased capability for discriminating tactical targets from the surface background in thermal infrared (IR) imagery. The approach has been to investigate the present theories of the thermal emissivity and reflectivity of natural surfaces and to apply these theories to the development of a background model. This will hopefully lead to the construction of algorithms to be used as a background information filter to aid in the separation of targets from background.

1.2 Background

Target detection for thermal IR imagery is usually accomplished by pixel intensity thresholding routines. Hot targets (vehicles with engines running) appear as high intensity (bright) areas on IR imagery. A threshold limited detector shows all pixels above a specified intensity value as targets that have, at the time of imaging, a large temperature differential from the background. However, when a significant temperature differential is not present targets are very difficult to detect by simple thresholding.

1.3 Scope

This effort has addressed the problem of detecting targets which are close to ambient temperature. This was done by modelling the background and by using the model as a base for developing an understanding of physical processes and their variations, which will (with further work) lead to the construction of a filtering algorithm. This algorithm would be used to eliminate the background information causing any objects or targets with characteristics different from the model to stand out. We:

a. Investigated theories of emissivity and reflectivity of natural surfaces and determined which would best fulfill this effort's objective.

b. Adapted chosen theory to an imagery format.

c. Developed a simple model which simulates the emissivity and reflectivity of natural surfaces, leading to an understanding of the physical factors (and their variations) controlling the remote sensing process.

d. Developed an algorithm for the model, to study major remote sensing variables and their random and systematic variations, so that advances may be made towards developing an optimum parametric envelope for data acquisition and analysis.

e. Made recommendations for further relevant work.

f. In this initial examination of the problem we were forced by lack of data and by funding and time constraints to make the following assumptions for numerical calculations:

(i) goniometric isotropy of the target and background emissivities.

(ii) spectral invariance of the emissivity of ground target and background materials.

(iii) transmission through a homogeneous atmosphere, using typical published data.

(iv) zero atmospheric self-radiance

Further work is needed in which improved simulation models are used. Indeed, an end-to-end simulation of the remote sensing process is needed. It is necessary to consider the interaction of sensor point spread function with the heterogeneous field of view: something which was not possible in this project.

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2. INTRODUCTION

Thresholding as a technique for target detection, identification and tracking and possibly for target quantification is of limited use. It is a technique which is not suitable for situations where the target differs by only small temperature differences from the background and for situations where both the target and the background show variations in radiance which can approach or exceed the differences between the mean values of the temperatures of the target and of the background. Under such situations, neither thresholding nor (probably) any other form of conventional signal processing can be useful in contrast enhancement or in target extraction.

One purpose of this study has been to concisely and clearly state the established principles which govern the detectability of different targets from each other and from their backgrounds in order to better understand factors determining the parametric envelope for optimum data acquisition and extraction. The reasons for this approach will become clear later in the report.

Those factors controlling the remote sensing process all need to be considered in concert, since the variance in sensor output obtained when viewing the target as compared to viewing the background will depend upon the variance in each of those parameters contributing towards the sensor

output. These are, for example, target and background emissivity and their variances with angular regime and with slope, aspect, soil moisture, microclimate and with a variety of other environmental factors. Also important are the variability of atmospheric transmission in the bandpass or combination of bandpasses used to observe the target and the background; transmission (and atmospheric self radiance) including the presence of scene obscurants . The interaction of the spectral radiance from the target with the spectral response of the sensor will be important in determining sensor output. The polarization of the radiance from the target and its interaction with the atmosphere (depolarizing effect due to multiple scattering) and with the inherent polarization of the sensor will be important in determining sensor output. Sky radiance will be an additional factor in determining composite sensor signal output.

In the case of a heterogeneous scene, consisting of a number of scene elements, each of which has its own angular anisotropy in emissivity and in bidirectional reflectance (optical reflective regime) the point spread function of the detector or of each element of the detector (in the case of an array) will interact with the heterogeneity of the target and with the angular disposition from which it (the target) is viewed.

Sensor noise, optical effects and stray radiation within the sensing device, tracking errors, the effects of sky radiance, cross-talk between different elements of an array, the magnitude and dimensions of the point spread function and its interaction with the composite scene, consisting of a number of different scene elements will all effect the overall output signal obtained for each pixel viewed by each instantaneous field of view, and will therefore affect the accuracy with which target and background may be discriminated.

Due to the short duration of this contract, it was considered important to consider those elements most important to the development of the ideas prevalent, indeed predominant in the statement of work. To this end, classical blackbody radiation theory, published atmospheric transmission data and multivariate statistical analysis were used to determine the relative advantages of single band and two-band data acquisition techniques for target detection, tracking and quantification. To the extent that detection implies discrimination the two terms in this report will be considered to be synonymous. The effects of atmospheric self-radiance and the effects of the point spread function were not considered for reasons of time.

Mathematical analysis has been performed for single band and for band ratio techniques in order to determine the feasibility of target discrimination at low target-to-background temperature differences. The examples selected are specific to a limited range of target and background emissivities, which are considered to be Lambertian. Atmospheric transmission is considered to be uniform and to consist of certain pre-selected values taken from the literature as typical. Variances for these parameters have been selected from an examination of the literature (e.g. the Infrared Handbook [14]) and are considered to be reasonable for a first order analysis.

A literature survey of the current state of the art as reported in the unclassified literature has been performed and is included in the discussion. Conclusions may be drawn with respect to promising new avenues of research for improved target tracking and discrimination, for the development of an optimum parametric envelope for data acquisition and analysis, for optimized target detection tracking and quantification. Suggestions are made for continuation and extension of this work in related areas which we had no time to investigate in this study such as, for example, dynamic viewing using staring two-dimensional pyro-electric or quantum effect arrays using CID or CCD devices. While the reported literature shows empirical comparison and evaluation of dynamic viewing of selected targets under ideal conditions, it is considered that far

more extensive modelling studies are required in order to determine the optimum parametric envelope for using two-dimensional arrays in a dynamic viewing method of operation.

These remarks apply to nadir-pointing sensors, but will apply even more to reasonably wide angle (10 - 20 degree field of view) scanned or two-dimensional sensor systems viewing obliquely towards (say) the horizon from space or from airborne platforms , or even at ground level.

A major emphasis in this report is to point the way towards future areas in which it is recommended that research efforts be concentrated.

3. FACTORS CONTROLLING THE RELATIONSHIP OF REMOTELY SENSED RADIANCE TO GROUND FEATURES

A.0 Introduction

While there has been a consideration of the many factors affecting the remote sensing process (e.g.[1]) and a consideration of those factors affecting the selection of bandpasses for smart sensors[2,3,157] there has been little work on the effects of systematic[4-9] and of random[10,11] variations on the accuracy with which targets may be discriminated using radiance data. We shall consider here each of the factors controlling remotely sensed radiance levels, the equations describing those factors and the level of variation which may be typically anticipated to occur in

totally effective. Duggin, Schoch and Gray[64,65] showed that up to 30% of the IFOV could be filled by cloud over a typical target, before the resulting pixel would be recognized as cloud, using current NOAA AVHRR data screening algorithms. Cloud contaminated pixels, once recognized, are discarded from further analysis, since there is no accurate way to correct for cloud without making assumptions about the degree of cloud contamination of flagged pixels. A qualitative illustration of the effects of cloud contamination is to point out that areas adjacent to cloud-covered regions usually have a modified color balance on interactive computer screens. That is, such areas may be viewed as "different". However, a far more quantitative test than human viewing of an interactive computer screen is needed to delete pixels which are cloud contaminated, or are suspected of being so.

Investigations are currently underway to study the off-nadir effects of unresolved cloud and haze on target discrimination for atmospheres of different turbidity.

5.1.f. The effect of random vs. systematic errors in recorded radiance levels.

As pointed out by Duggin[66] and by Duggin, et. al[67] there are both systematic and random errors in radiance levels recorded from targets which are to be discriminated and quantified. The systematic effects may be corrected for

This follows from the general case of a mixed (heterogeneous) pixel, as shown in Table 1. Here a_A is the fraction of the instantaneous field of view (IFOV) filled by target A, while a_C is the fraction of the IFOV filled by cloud. Thus, in addition to atmospheric effects mentioned previously, opaque cloud (or haze or cirrus) can alter the absolute radiance level recorded when viewing a given target and may (depending on the spectral reflectance characteristics of the cloud) alter the spectral distribution of target radiance.

Cloud which fills only a portion of the IFOV of the detector does not result in a radiance level or in a spectral distribution in radiance recorded by several channels, which characterizes cloud. However, unresolved cloud can have the same effect as cirrus or haze, namely to distort the spectral radiance signature from the target, which is to be discriminated from its surroundings or quantified in some manner. While the photointerpreter relies upon shapes, textures, relative positions and locations as well as on color and brightness, computer classification of multispectral imagery relies only upon the digital counts recorded from the target in each sensor channel. Therefore, unresolved cloud, cirrus and haze can result in errors of omission and/or of commission if there is not some means of detecting the cloud, haze or cirrus-contaminated pixels so that they are not considered in the analysis. So far, cloud screening algorithms are not

same areas and will permit comparisons to be made between images obtained over different areas. Such corrections are necessary to permit analysis for monitoring change in ground cover over large geographic areas and will enable quantitative evaluation of temporal change in the values and in the spectral distribution of recorded radiance.

Such angle-dependent effects are systematic and may, to some extent, be corrected for. This may be achieved by parallel empirical and theoretical (modelling) studies.

B.1.e. The effect of cloud and haze.

Cloud, haze and cirrus may be present in constant or in predictably varying quantities across a scene, in which case they will modify recorded radiance as reported by Duggin, et. al [64-67]. The overall recorded radiance signature in bandpass r will be, from a given target (A) (given that the cloud is a Lambertian reflector with a spectrally invariant reflectance factor R_C).

$$NS_r = \int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} I(\lambda)\cdot\left[\left\{\int_0^{\pi}\int_0^{\pi}(a_A \times R_A(\theta,\phi;\theta',\phi',\lambda) + a_c \times R_c)\cdot E_{Scatt}(\theta,\phi,\lambda)\cdot d\theta\cdot d\phi + L_T(\theta,\phi,\lambda)\left\{a_A R_A(\theta,\phi;\theta',\phi';\lambda) + a_c R_c\right\}\right\}\right.$$

$$\left.\times \exp\left\{-\int_0^{z}\int_{-\pi}^{\pi}\int_0^{\pi}\beta'_{ext}(\theta'',\phi'',\lambda,z)d\theta''\cdot d\phi''\cdot dz\right\} + \int_{-\pi}^{\pi}\int_0^{\pi}L_{path}(\theta,\phi;\theta',\phi',\lambda)d\theta\cdot d\phi\right]\cdot d\lambda$$

$$\Big/ \int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} I(\lambda)\cdot d\lambda \qquad (3.14)$$

(3.11). $I(\lambda)$ is the spectral response of the sensing device and equation (3.12) may be more fully expressed (so that the relative importance of the abovementioned factors may be appreciated) as:

$$NS_r = \frac{\int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} I(\lambda).\left[\left\{\int_0^{\pi}\int_0^{\pi} R(\theta,\phi;\theta',\phi',\lambda).E_{scatt}(\theta,\phi,\lambda).d\theta.d\phi + L_T(\theta,\phi,\lambda).R(\theta,\phi,\theta',\phi',\lambda)\right\} \times \exp\left\{-\int_0^{z}\int_0^{\pi}\int_0^{\pi} \beta'_{ext}(\theta'',\phi'',\lambda,z).d\theta''.d\phi''.dz\right\} + \int_0^{\pi}\int_0^{\pi} L_{path}(\theta,\phi;\theta',\phi',z)d\theta.d\phi\right] d\lambda}{\int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} I(\lambda).d\lambda} \qquad (3.13)$$

Here the sensor view and azimuth angles are θ' and ϕ'.

Not surprisingly, it has been shown that there is a significant dependence of recorded digital radiance levels on sun-target-sensor geometry [4-9] for the NOAA AVHRR, SPOT and MSS data [4]. There are indications [63] that this is also true for thematic mapper (TM) data. Empirical understanding of the dependence of recorded radiance on scan angle, season (solar declination) and latitude should lead to an approximate correction for these parameters, permitting radiometric comparisons (and therefore classifications on the basis of radiance levels) across images. Such corrections will also permit quantitative comparisons to be made between images obtained at different seasons over the

There are "zero power wavelengths" (λ_1, λ_2) which bound each sensor bandpass, and at which the response of the sensor is zero. However, between these wavelength limits, the response of the detector is not constant. Since the target radiance and the atmospheric transmission and path radiance also vary (each in a different manner) across each bandpass, interactions between the spectral response of the sensor, the spectral radiance from the target, the spectral backscatter from the atmosphere and the spectral extinction of the atmosphere along the path from the target to the sensor may be anticipated. This has been pointed out by Slater[59,60] and by Duggin, et. al [10,61,62].

The signal output of the sensor (normalized sensor response) is given by the equation:

$$NS_r = \frac{\int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} I(\lambda) . \left\{ L_D(\theta,\phi;\theta',\phi',\lambda) \right\} . d\lambda}{\int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} I(\lambda) . d\lambda} \qquad (3.12)$$

where $L_D(\theta,\phi;\theta',\phi',\lambda)$, the spectral radiance incident on the sensor is due to radiance reflected from the target for the sun-target-sensor geometry considered, after modification for the spectral extinction along the atmospheric path from the target to the sensor, plus the added spectral atmospheric backscatter (path radiance) for the same target-sensor-geometry as considered in equations (3.10) and

where $\sigma'_{ext}(\theta'', \phi'', \lambda, z)$ is the extinction coefficient at altitude Z along the path to the sensor and $L_{path}(\theta,\phi;\theta',\phi',\lambda)$ is the path radiance scattered into the sensor by the atmosphere in addition to radiance transmitted from the target at ground level.

It may be readily seen that the contrast in recorded radiance between two targets is reduced by both atmospheric extinction and by the addition of a background radiance level (e.g. ref.[50], pg. 206). The reason for this is that the level of useful signal is reduced by the atmosphere, while there is an addition of purely atmospheric signal which contains no useful information.

Some correction can be made for path radiance and for atmospheric extinction. However, methods currently used assume that the atmosphere is constant across the imaged area (e.g. [45]). Further, either approximations are made in that all signal from low albedo areas is supposed to arise from the atmosphere (e.g. [45]) or several meteorological inputs are required in order to compute the modelled corrections (e.g. [43]).

B.1.d. The effect of the detector.

The response of the detector is wavelength-dependent across those bandpasses to which it is sensitive. In other words, it is not either "on" or "off", depending upon wavelength. This is illustrated in Figs. 9 and 10.

goniometric hemispherical-directional reflectance factors[55-58]. Variations in global irradiance across an imaged area will also occur due atmospheric transmission fluctuations (that is, variations in time at a given location will be similar to variations with space at a given instant in time). Radiance from the ground will also be modified by the atmosphere, prior to detection.

B.1.c. The passage of reflected target radiance to the detector.

Radiance reflected from the target may be most exactly expressed by equation (3.10). However, some radiance is absorbed and scattered out of the reflected beam by the atmosphere[77 - 128]. This may be considered by using a modification of equation (3.2) allowing for the fact that extinction along the reflected path may differ from extinction along the path of the incident radiance falling on the target. Fig. 8 explains this relationship. Thus, the radiance falling on the detector is given by:

$$L_D(\theta,\phi;\theta',\phi',\lambda) = L_R(\theta,\phi;\theta',\phi',\lambda)\cdot\exp\left[-\int_0^z\int_{-\pi}^{\pi}\int_0^{\pi}\beta'_{ext}(\theta'',\phi'',\lambda,z)\cdot d\theta''\cdot d\phi''\cdot dz\right]$$

$$+\int_0^{\pi}\int_0^{\pi}L_{path}(\theta,\phi;\theta',\phi',\lambda)d\theta\cdot d\phi \qquad (3.11)$$

The relationship between incident, reflected and absorbed radiance is shown in Fig. 7. As pointed out by, for example, Kriebel [19] and by Kirchner, et al [52], it is the interaction of the polar distribution of the spectral irradiance field with the bidirectional spectral reflectance factor which determines the angular distribution (and the absolute value at any given angular orientation) of spectral reflected radiance. Thus, equation (3.9) may be more exactly expressed as:

$$L_R(\theta',\phi',\lambda) = \int_0^{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} R(\theta,\phi;\theta',\phi',\lambda) \cdot E_{scat}(\theta,\phi,\lambda) \cdot d\theta \cdot d\phi$$

$$+ L_T(\theta,\phi,\lambda) \cdot R(\theta,\phi;\theta',\phi',\lambda) \qquad (3.10)$$

where $R(\theta,\phi;\theta',\phi')$ is the bidirectional reflectance factor[53].

Thus, while equation (3.9) describes the spectral radiance reflected into a given direction, as a function of overall irradiance level, equation (3.10) takes into consideration the polar distribution of the incident spectral irradiant flux field.

It has been shown (e.g. [10,11,19,52]) that the scalar global spectral irradiance and its polar distribution are time-dependent. Therefore, both the scalar value and the polar distribution of this quantity may vary between sequential ground measurements of target radiance and irradiance, giving errors in estimates of spectral

The radiance reflected into any polar direction may be expressed as:

$$L_R(\theta',\phi',\lambda)=R(2\pi;\theta',\phi',\lambda)\cdot E(\theta,\phi,\lambda) \qquad (3.9)$$

where $R(2\pi;\theta',\phi'\lambda)$ is the hemispherical-directional spectral reflectance factor [53], which relates the spectral radiance reflected into any selected direction (selected by the scan angle and by the ground track of the sensor platform) to the total scalar (global) spectral irradiance. The angular notation used is shown in Figs. 4 and 5.

There can be considerable angular anisotropy in the spectral hemispherical-directional reflectance factor. Indeed, a polar plot of this factor generally produces a non-spherical surface, whose irregularity is indicative of the degree of angular anisotropy in the spectral bidirectional reflectance factor. Experimental evidence of such anisotropy has already been widely published (e.g. [26-36]): furthermore, theoretical calculations indeed predict such anisotropy (e.g. [20 - 25]) in a manner which has been experimentally confirmed (e.g. [28, 54]). Fig. 6 shows the variation of the bidirectional reflectance factor with wavelength and scan angle for wheat at a growth stage of 3.5 on the modified Feeks scale, calculated from published data [27,36, 70]. The solar azimuth and zenith angles are taken to correspond to those for the NOAA-6 advanced very high resolution radiometer (AVHRR).

where

h = altitude (km)

σ_r = Rayleigh scattering cross section (m^2)

n_r = atmospheric number density (m^{-3})

n_p = aerosol number density (m^{-3})

A_v = ozone absorption coefficient (cm^{-1})

D_3 = ozone concentration ($cm\ km^{-1}$).

B.1.b. The reflection of radiance from the target.

The situation at the target is shown in Fig. 3. The total resolved component of radiance falling perpendicularly on the surface is shown as the scalar quantity $E(\lambda)$. This quantity will depend upon the solar zenith angle , upon the various atmospheric extinction coefficients and upon the amount and polar distribution of cloud ([8-11,19,50-52]).

There will be some energy which will be absorbed by the ground target. This is $E_{abs}(\theta',\phi',\lambda)$ and will depend upon polar direction, since there will probably be angular anisotropy in the absorbing properties of the ground.

The energy reflected in a given polar direction will be $L_R(\theta', \phi', \lambda)$. There will be a net balance as given by the equation:

$$E(\lambda) = \int_0^{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} L_R(\theta',\phi',\lambda)\cos\theta' \cdot d\theta'\, d\phi' + \int_0^{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} E_{abs}(\theta'_1,\phi'_1,\lambda)\cos\theta' \cdot d\theta'_1 \cdot d\phi'_1 \qquad (3.8)$$

where $\beta_{ext}(\theta'',\phi'',\lambda,z) = \beta_r(\theta'',\phi'',\lambda,z) + \beta_p(\theta'',\phi'',\lambda,z) + \beta_3(\theta'',\phi'',\lambda,z)$ (3.3)

Here $\beta_{ext}(\theta'',\phi'',\lambda,z)$ is the total extinction coefficient

$\beta_r(\theta'',\phi'',\lambda,z)$ is the coefficient for Rayleigh scattering.

$\beta_p(\theta'',\phi'',\lambda,z)$ is the coefficient for aerosol scattering.

$\beta_3(\theta'',\phi'',\lambda,z)$ is the coefficient for ozone absorption.

The total irrradiance on the target at wavelength λ is given by the sum of the radiance from the sun's disk $L_T(\theta,\phi,\lambda)$ and the irradiance from the sky (scattered radiation), see Figs. 2 and 3.

$$E(\lambda) = L_T(\theta,\phi,\lambda)\ \mathrm{Cos}\ \theta + \int_0^{\pi}\int_0^{\pi} E_{scatt}(\theta,\phi,\lambda)\ \mathrm{Cos}\ \theta\ d\theta.d\phi \qquad (3.4)$$

Here $E(\lambda)$ is a scalar quantity; while $E_{scatt}(\theta,\phi,\lambda)$ is a polar vector which represents the scattered radiance from each point in the sky. Integration of the component $E_{scatt}(\theta,\phi,\lambda)$ over the hemisphere of the sky gives a scalar quantity which represents the total "sky" irradiance. $L_T(\theta,\phi,\lambda).\mathrm{Cos}\ \theta$ is the resolved component of the radiance from the solar disk which falls perpendicular to the ground.

Approximate values for the extinction coefficients, in terms of readily measured physical quantities are given by (e.g.) Slater[50].

$$\beta_r(h) = \sigma_r n_r(h) \times 10^3 \qquad (3.5)$$

$$\beta_p(h) = \beta_p(0).\frac{n_p(h)}{n_p(0)} \qquad (3.6)$$

$$\beta_3(h) = A_v D_3(h) \qquad (3.7)$$

B.1 The optical-reflective region of the spectrum

In the optical-reflective region, we shall consider the remote sensing process in three parts; the passage of radiant energy from the sun to the target, the reflection of energy by the target and the interaction of the atmosphere with reflected radiance before it reaches the sensor.

B.1.a. The passage of radiant energy to the target.

Fig. 2 shows the passage of solar radiance through the atmosphere to the target on the ground. The solar zenith and azimuth angles are determined by the local time, season (solar declination δ) and latitude ϕ. In fact, the solar zenith angle θ is given by the equation:

$$\text{Cos } \theta = \text{Sin } \phi.\text{Sin } \delta + \text{Cos } \phi.\text{Cos } \delta \text{ Cos } 15 \left(TH + \frac{TM}{60} - SLN\right) \quad (3.1)$$

where TH is the local time in hours, TM the local time in minutes and where SLN is solar noon, the time at which the sun crosses the meridian.

Losses from the radiant beam from the sun's disk occur due to scattering and absorption. Broadly, the radiance reaching the target along the direct beam from the sun's disk is (e.g. [50]).

$$L_T(\theta,\phi,\lambda) = L_0(\theta,\phi,\lambda) \left\{ \exp\left[- \int_0^Z \int_0^{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \beta_{ext}(\theta'',\phi'',\lambda,z).d\theta''.d\phi''.dz \right] \right\} \quad (3.2)$$

effect of the atmosphere, in order to correct for it (e.g. [17,37-49]). Such models generally assume that the atmosphere is not turbulent, but rather consists of a series of steady-state, layered media, with discrete and constant aerosol, molecular and particle concentrations.

Before dealing with variations in these quantities, we must quantitatively describe the entire remote sensing process in an overall manner as outlined by (e.g.) Maxwell[1].

some of those factors (on the basis of what very limited experimental data exists). The effect of such variation on recorded radiance levels, on target discrimination and quantification, on system design and on data collection and analysis optimization will be considered.

B.0 Discussion

The interactions occurring between solar radiance incident on the top of the atmosphere, the atmosphere, the ground and the sensor are shown broadly in figure 1. It is seen that solar radiance (L_o) incident on the top of the earth's atmosphere is subject to losses in each polar direction (θ, ϕ) caused by scattering ($L_s(\theta, \phi)$) and absorption ($L_a(\theta,\phi)$) (e.g. [13-19]) during its passage through the atmosphere. The total energy which reaches the earth's surface is given by the sum of the radiance from the solar disk, plus the energy scattered from the sky to the earth's surface (diffuse irradiance or "sky radiance"). The earth's surface reflects radiation in an anisotropic manner, which has been described analytically [20-25] and which has been observed experimentally (e.g. [26 - 36]). The radiance reflected from a ground target into the direction of the sensor is again subject to scattering and absorption. Some radiance reflected from adjacent target areas is scattered into the reflected beam and radiance is scattered from the atmosphere into the sensor ("path radiance" or "backscatter"). Models have been developed to describe the

empirically, using regression equations developed by studying a large volume of data [6,68]. However, the nature of random errors prevents their correction. The best that may be achieved is to determine the magnitude of the random errors and to determine their effect upon feature identification and quantification [10]. The effects on sensor output of random and systematic errors in various remote sensing variables are shown in flow-chart form for the optical-reflective part of the spectrum in Fig. 11 and for the thermal infrared region in Fig. 12.

Thus, in the event that two targets, A and B are to be discriminated and there is no visible cloud in the sky, then the radiance difference needed to perform a discrimination with 95% confidence would be given by the expression [11]:

$$HW\left\{(\bar{L}_A) - (\bar{L}_B)\right\} = \frac{t_{0.5,m-1}}{\sqrt{m}}\left\{(\sigma_{LL})_A + (\sigma_{LL})_B\right\}^{1/2} \qquad (3.15)$$

where H.W. denotes half the width of the 95% confidence interval on the difference $(\bar{L}_r)_A - (\bar{L}_r)_B$ and where $(\bar{L}_r)_A$ and $(\bar{L}_r)_B$ are the mean radiance values in bandpass r from targets A and B. The means are obtained in each case from m pixels. $t_{0.5,m-1}$ is the student factor where (m) is the number of observations used in estimating $(\bar{L}_r)_A$ and $(\bar{L}_r)_B$. The evaluation of equation (3.15) using equation (3.14) would be complex. However, if we use the concept of hemispherical-directional reflectance, in equation (3.9) then we can obtain a simple solution from the works of

(e.g.) Davis [69], such as proposed by Duggin [66], as given in equation (3.16).

$$HW\{(L)_A - (L)_B\} =$$

$$\frac{t_{0.5,m-1}}{\sqrt{m}} \left\{ \left(a_A . R_A(z_1,\phi_1;\theta_1',\phi_1',\lambda) . \tau(\theta_1',\lambda) + a_C . R_C(\lambda) . \tau(\theta_1',\lambda) \right)^2 . \sigma_{EE} + E^2(z_1,\lambda) . R_A^2(z_1,\phi_1;\theta_1',\phi_1',\lambda) \tau^2(\theta_1',\lambda) . \sigma_{a_A a_A} \right.$$

$$+ E^2(z_1,\lambda) . R_C^2(\lambda) . \tau^2(\theta_1',\lambda) . \sigma_{a_C a_C} + E^2(z_1,\lambda) . a_A^2 . \tau^2(\theta_1',\lambda) . \sigma_{R_A R_A} + E^2(z_1,\lambda) . a_C^2 . \tau^2(\theta',\lambda) . \sigma_{R_C R_C}$$

$$+ E^2(z_1,\lambda) . \left(a_A . R_A(z_1,\phi_1;\theta_1',\phi_1',\lambda) + a_C . R_C(\lambda) \right)^2 . \sigma_{\tau\tau} + E^2(z_2,\lambda) . R_B^2(z_2,\phi_2;\theta_2',\phi_2',\lambda) \tau^2(\theta_2',\lambda) . \sigma_{a_B a_B}$$

$$+ \left(a_B . R_B(z_2,\phi_2;\theta_2',\phi_2',\lambda) . \tau(\theta_2',\lambda) + a_C' . R_C(\lambda) . \tau(\theta_2',\lambda) \right)^2 . \sigma_{EE} + E^2(z_2,\lambda) . R_C^2(\lambda) . \tau^2(\theta_2',\lambda) . \sigma_{a'_C a'_C}$$

$$+ E^2(z_2,\lambda) . a_B^2 . \tau^2(\theta_2',\lambda) . \sigma_{R_B R_B} + E^2(z_2,\lambda) . a_C'^2 . \tau^2(\theta_2',\lambda) . \sigma_{R_C R_C} + E^2(z_2,\lambda) \left(a_B . R_B(z_2,\phi_2;\theta_2',\phi_2',\lambda) + a_C' . R_C(\cdot) \right)^2 .$$

$$\left. + 2\sigma_{L_p L_p} + 2E^2(z_1,\lambda) . R_C(\lambda) . R_A(z_1,\phi_1;\theta_1',\phi_1',\lambda) . \tau^2(\theta_1',\lambda) . \sigma_{a_A a_C} + 2E^2(z_2,\lambda) . R_C(\lambda) . R_B(z_2,\phi_2;\theta_2',\phi_2',\lambda) . \tau^2(\theta_2',\lambda) . \sigma_{a_B a'_C} \right\}^{1/2}$$

$$\text{and } H.W.\{(\bar{L}_A)_r - (\bar{L}_B)_r\} = \int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} H.W.\{(\bar{L}_A)_\lambda - (\bar{L}_B)_\lambda\} \, d\lambda \qquad (3.16)$$

where $(z_1,\phi_1;\theta_1',\phi_1')$ describes the sun-target-sensor geometry for the group of pixels in target A and where $(z_2,\phi_2;\theta_2',\phi_2')$ describes the sun-target-sensor geometry for the group of pixels in target B. Here $\theta = z$.

Here we refer to mean radiance differences at a specific wavelength λ, instead of across bandpass r. τ is the atmospheric transmission. Note that we assume a fraction of cloud a_c in the pixels over target A, while we assume a fraction of cloud a'_c in the pixels over target B. This formula would need to be computed for each scan angle, putting in the values for each variable relating to the appropriate sun-target-sensor geometry.

It should be noted that if we consider the radiance output from the sensor (recorded radiance rather than the radiance incident on the sensor as considered above), then for each wavelength λ equation (3.16) becomes, more fully expressed in equation (3.19) *(next page)*. These equations enable us to compute the necessary mean radiance difference between two targets for target discrimination with a 95% probability of being correct. The computation is unique to each sun-target-sensor geometry and will depend not only on the angular anisotropy of each target reflectance, but will also depend upon the angular anisotropy of the atmospheric scattering functions. The computation is also sensor-specific.

In detail, the sensor output difference Δ for m pixels obtained over each target, each partly filled by a proportion of (Lambertian) cloud would then be:

$$\Delta = \frac{\int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} I(\lambda)\cdot\bar{L}_A(\lambda)\cdot d\lambda \; - \; \int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} I(\lambda)\cdot\bar{L}_B(\lambda)\cdot d\lambda}{\int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} I(\lambda)\cdot d\lambda} \tag{3.17}$$

$$\Delta = \frac{\int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} I(\lambda)\cdot\left\{\bar{L}_A(\lambda) - \bar{L}_B(\lambda)\right\}\cdot d\lambda}{\int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} I(\lambda)\cdot d\lambda} \tag{3.18}$$

In order to be 95% confident that the two features are indeed seperable on the basis of reflected radiance using a bandpass r, whose upper and lower zero-power wavelength limits are λ_2 and λ_1, the difference must exceed the value of the following function:

$$\text{H.W.}\left\{(\bar{L}_r')_A - (\bar{L}_r')_B\right\} = \frac{\int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} \text{H.W.}\left\{I(\lambda).\bar{L}_A(\lambda) - I(\lambda).\bar{L}_B(\lambda)\right\}.d\lambda}{\int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} I(\lambda)\cdot d\lambda} \tag{3.19}$$

where H.W. $\left\{(\bar{L}_r')_A - (\bar{L}_r')_B\right\}$ is the minimum recorded radiance difference Δ necessary to be 95% confident of discrimination on the basis of sensor output. Of course, we can perform such calculations for any pre-determined confidence level.

Factors which will control the discriminability of targets, where

$$\text{Discriminability} = \text{D.F.} = \frac{\text{H.W.} \left\{ (\overline{L_r'})_A - (\overline{L_r'})_B \right\}}{|\Delta|}$$

function

as given by (e.g. Duggin [66]) are several. These effects are mentioned but have not been investigated in this study. For discrimination to be possible D.F. < 1.0.:

(i) relative areas in the IFOV occupied by unresolved cloud and by target.

(ii) atmospheric extinction and its variation (here shown as atmospheric transmission τ) for the sensor bandpasses.

(iii) variation in the relative proportions of the IFOV occupied by the target and by cloud. [64-67]

(iv) path radiance for the sensor bandpasses and its variation across the imaged area. (e.g. [64])

(v) relative albedos of the targets to be distinguished in the bandpasses used and of the cloud present in the IFOV where unresolved cloud exists. [64-66]

(vi) variations in atmospheric turbidity and the average value of this quantity across the imaged area. (e.g. [68])

(vii) The overall level and spectral distribution of global irradiance.

(viii) The spectral responses of the sensors in those bandpasses used, and the interaction of such responses with the target radiance.

(ix) random variability of the spectral bidirectional reflectance factor across the sampled area. This can be caused by (e.g.) topographic variations, textural variations, slight changes in pixel composition, etc.

(x) the dependence on sun-target-sensor geometry of the spectral bidirectional reflectance factor, spectral path radiance, spectral atmospheric extinction and target discriminability. Due to angular anisotropy of ground reflectance, it may be that discrimination of some targets is optimal (target/background contrast is maximum) at certain angular regimes (i.e. at certain solar elevations and azimuths and at certain, possibly off-nadir view angles).

(xi) The interaction of the point-spread function of the detector with the heterogeneity of the pixel, consisting of different scene components. This point is made clear in Fig. 13. Here, the point-spread function of the sensor is shown superimposed upon a nominal pixel (projection of the defined earlier (IFOV) on the ground) containing several different scene

elements. Each scene element will have its own, different angular spectral reflectance and emissivity anisotropy and so the movement of the sensor such that the IFOV is shifted by a fraction of a pixel will produce a considerable change in sensor output. This important point has so far received very little attention.

An example [66, 67] of the effects of scan angle, unresolved cloud and atmospheric turbidity on contrast ratio is shown in Figs. 14 (clear atmosphere: meteorological range > 50 km) and 15 (turbid atmosphere: meteorological range < 10 km). Here vegetated targets (70% wheat, 30% soil) and 100% wheat at a growth stage of 3.5 on the modified Feeks scale (boot stage) are considered. In each case, a vegetative index (VIN) is used to typify the target: the VIN used is the radiance recorded in AVHRR band 2 (0.713-0.986 μm; reflected infrared) divided by the radiance recorded in AVHRR band 1 (0.570-0.686 μm; visible). Three facts emerge: firstly the contrast ratio (VIN_{MAX}/VIN_{MIN}) is greatly reduced by unresolved cloud (and therefore by haze and cirrus). Secondly, the contrast ratio is scan angle dependent. Thirdly, the contrast ratio is reduced in a scan angle-dependent manner by unresolved cloud for a turbid (meteorological range < 10 km) atmosphere as compared to a clear (meteorological range > 50 km) atmosphere.

B.2. THE THERMAL INFRARED REGION OF THE SPECTRUM

Evidence exists to snow that there is angular anisotropy of the emissivity of ground targets [71-76]. In the case of emitted thermal radiance, atmospheric attenuation consists principally of absorption, so that equation (3.10) should be re-written, for emitted thermal infrared radiance at ground level, as:

$$L_R(\theta',\phi',\lambda) = \varepsilon(\theta',\phi',\lambda).\ W(T,\lambda) \qquad (3.20)$$

where $\varepsilon(\theta',\phi',\lambda)$ is the directional radiant spectral emittance and $W(T,\lambda)$ is the spectral radiant exitance of a blackbody at temperature T (degrees Kelvin). The assumption here is that the radiator is a graybody.

Therefore, in the case of emitted thermal radiance, the equivalent equation to the optical-reflective equation (3.11) is:

$$L_D(\theta',\phi',\lambda) = L_R(\theta',\phi',\lambda).\exp\left\{-\int_0^Z \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \beta'_{ext}(\theta'',\phi'',\lambda,z)\, d\theta''.d\phi''.dz\right\}$$

$$+ L_{sky}(\theta',\phi',\lambda) \qquad (3.21)$$

Here, it is assumed that the predominant atmospheric effect is absorption, e.g. [77-89, 95, 96, 100, 103]. There is also an atmospheric self radiance term:

$$L_{sky}\ (\theta',\phi',\lambda)$$

This situation is illustrated by Fig. 16.

The interaction of this spectral thermal radiance with the detecting device is given by the expression for the recorded radiance NS_r.

$$NS_r = \frac{\int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} I(\lambda)\left[\varepsilon(\theta',\phi',\lambda)\cdot W(T,\lambda)\cdot\exp\left\{-\int_0^z -\int_{\pi}^{\bar{\pi}} \int_0^{\pi} \beta'_{ext}(\theta'',\phi'',\lambda)\cdot d\theta''\cdot d\phi''\cdot dz\right\} + L_{sky}\ (\theta',\phi',\lambda)\right]\cdot d\lambda}{\int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} I(\lambda)\cdot d\lambda} \qquad (3.22)$$

Equations (3.15) and (3.16) would also be different, of course, for the thermal infrared case than for the optical reflective case. Here, we ignore the (generally trivial) covariance terms.

$$HW\left\{L(\lambda)_A - L(\lambda)_B\right\} = \frac{\tau_{.05,m}}{\sqrt{n}} \left\{\left(\varepsilon_A^2(\theta',\phi',\lambda)\cdot S_{\tau\tau} + \tau^2(\theta',\phi',\lambda)\cdot S_{\varepsilon_A\varepsilon_A}\right)\cdot W(T_A,\lambda) + \left(\varepsilon_B^2(\theta',\phi',\lambda)\cdot S_{\tau\tau} + \tau^2(\theta',\phi',\lambda)\cdot S_{\varepsilon_B\varepsilon_B}\right)\cdot W(T_B,\lambda) + 2\, S_{L_{sky}L_{sky}}\right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (3.23)$$

where $S_{\tau\tau}$, $S_{\varepsilon_A\varepsilon_A}$, $S_{\varepsilon_B\varepsilon_B}$ and $S_{L_{sky}L_{sky}}$ represent sample variances in atmospheric transmission, emissivity of target A, emissivity of background B and sky radiance L_{sky}. Atmospheric transmission τ is given by

$$\tau = \exp\left\{-\int_0^z \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \beta'_{ext}(\theta'',\phi'',\lambda)\, .d\theta''.d\phi''.dz\right\}$$

More discussion will be made of this derivation later.

Equation (3.23) could then be substituted into equations (3:18) and (3.19) to determine the value of a discriminability function (DF) such that:

$$D.F. = \frac{HW\left\{(\bar{L}')_A - (\bar{L}')_B\right\}}{|\Delta|} \quad (3.24)$$

and D.F. must always be less than 1, for discrimination of target from background with a 95% (or some other predetermined level) of confidence.

The well-known physical factors controlling the remote sensing process have been discussed and represented in relevant form in this section. The relative importance of some already reported random and systematic variations on recorded radiance and on target discriminability and contrast have also been discussed. These factors need to be borne in mind when designing instrumentation or when optimizing imaging conditions.

Assuming that the wavelengths for the bandpasses used by the sensing device have been best chosen for the task at hand, (and this has been the case only so far as is possible with limited data) it is possible that discrimination of the target will be more effective for some sun-target-sensor geometries than for others. It is also likely that there are upper limits for unresolved cloud, haze, obscurants and cirrus for which discrimination of targets of different, selected albedos is possible. In order to understand the principles controlling both the systematic and random variations discussed above, which control the accuracy with which selected targets may be discriminated, it is necessary to use both empirical and mathematical simulation studies for the atmosphere, [37-49, 90-128] for sensing devices, [2,3, 5-10,14,59-62,136,164,241-266] and for the variability of recorded radiance and its effect on contrast [10-12,204-240].

In order to test and calibrate the mathematical models it is necessary to have sufficient measurements of the reflectance factors and emissivity of the earth's surface at various angular geometries. Unfortunately, few such data currently exist and there is little agreement on the methods by which such critical data should be obtained.

While it is necessary to be pragmatic regarding the best use of existing data, it is suggested that few advances in sensor design, in data collection optimization or in an understanding of the effects of random and systematic errors on target discriminability will be possible until theoretical studies are performed to parallel present experimental studies to increase our understanding of those factors discussed above. Only such studies will make possible the collection and analysis of digital multispectral radiance data so as to minimize errors of omission and comission in automated or semi-automated analysis.

4. SENSORS

Sensing devices can consist of either scanners, pushbroom array devices or staring arrays [129-203, 261-286]. The scanner has the advantage of utilizing a limited number of detectors whose spectral response and point spread function may be relatively well known (although this is apparently not the case for (e.g.) the Landsat Multi-

spectral scanner (MSS). Neither the MSS, nor the TM had documented inherent polarization measurements performed, nor was the spectral response of each of the channels of each of the bands on these devices well documented in the open literature. (e.g. [59-62])

As discussed in section 3, the point spread function of a sensor means that the central portion of the IFOV, has a higher sensitivity than the outermost portions of the IFOV. For a heterogeneous field of view or for a target which does not completely fill the field of view, the position of a small (sub-pixel sized) target with respect to the peak of the point spread function is therefore obviously important. This fact appears so far to have received relatively little attention and it is recommended that more work is needed here. Pushbroom scanners may consist of a single array of sensors which obtains information in one spectral bandpass or may consist of a two-dimensional detector array placed behind a wedge interference filter where the axis perpendicular to the ground track obtains spatially varying information from different pixels and the axis alongtrack obtains information in different wavebands. Such a device clearly entails considerable problems in so far as high data rates involved, coupled with varying instrument spectral responses between detectors, varying filter transmissions in front of each of the sensing elements, absolute detector calibration variation from element-to-element and

spheric transmission was allowed to vary from 0.8 to 1.00 in increments of 0.02. For band 2 (11.0 - 12 μm) the atmospheric transmission was allowed to vary from 0.60 to 1.00 in increments of 0.04. This resulted in a range of ratios (τ_2/τ_1). The coefficients of variation in both τ_1 and τ_2 was allowed to vary from 0.01 to 0.05 in 0.01 increments which was an estimate based upon the literature.

The discrimination function (D.F.) described in equation (5.19) was plotted as a function of the relative atmospheric transmissions τ_1 and τ_2 in the two bandpasses used and as a function of the temperature of the target T_A. The target temperature was allowed to vary from 265° K to 285° K in one degree increments. The background temperature was always 275° K. The target was assumed to have a spectral invariant emissivity. Examples of the three-dimensional plots are shown in Figs. C1 to C3. The vertical axis is DF, while the horizontal axes are the ratio (τ_2/τ_1) of the atmospheric transmissions in the two bands used and the target temperature T_A. Fig. C1 shows the case where the correlation coefficients between the recorded radiances is 0.01, while the coefficient of variation in each of the atmospheric transmission values τ_1 and τ_2 for bands 1 and 2 is 0.01. Fig. C2 shows a case which is identical, except that the coefficients of variation for τ_1 and τ_2 are 0.05: clearly the increased variation in atmospheric transmission reduces the discriminability (i.e. increases D.F.) for any given temperature. The D.F. is relatively insensitive to τ_2/τ_1 in either case.

Similarly, for target B:

$$S_{RR_B} = \left(\frac{BB_{22}}{BB_{21}}\right)^2 \cdot \left(\frac{\varepsilon_{B_2}}{\varepsilon_{B_1}}\right)^2 \cdot \left(\frac{\tau_2}{\tau_1}\right)^2 \cdot S_{\tau_1\tau_1} + \left(\frac{BB_{22}}{BB_{21}}\right)^2 \cdot \left(\frac{\varepsilon_{B_2}}{\varepsilon_{B_1}}\right)^2 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\tau_1}\right)^2 \cdot S_{\tau_2\tau_2}$$

$$2\left(\frac{BB_{22}}{BB_{21}}\right)^2 \cdot \left(\frac{\varepsilon_{B_2}}{\varepsilon_{B_1}}\right)^2 \cdot \left(\frac{\tau_2}{\tau_1^2}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\tau_1}\right) \cdot \ldots \cdot \left(S_{\tau_2\tau_2} \cdot S_{\tau_1\tau_1}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \qquad (5.18)$$

where BB_{21} is the blackbody radiant emittance from background B in band 1 and BB_{22} is the blackbody radiant emittance from blackbody B in band 2.

The discrimination function D.F., which must be less than 1.00 for discrimination of target from background using the recorded radiance ratios $R_A = L_{A_2}/L_{A_1}$ and $R_B = L_{B_2}/L_{B_1}$ at the 95% confidence level (equation 5.13) is given by:

$$D.F. = \frac{\left(\frac{t_{0.5,m-1}}{\sqrt{m}}\right)\left\{\left(S_{RR}\right)_A + \left(S_{RR}\right)_B\right\}^{\frac{1}{2}}}{\left|\left(S_{RR}\right)_A - \left(S_{RR}\right)_B\right|} \qquad (5.19)$$

Calculations of D.F. were made and tabulated. Here, as for the single band calculations, samples of 20 pixels were assumed to exist in the target and in the background areas. For bandl (3.5-4.1μm) the atmos-

Starting from this point, we may use arguments similar to those embodied in equations (5.7) and (5.8) to deduce that the major contribution to the variance in the ratio between bands 1 and 2 of the radiance from target A may be attributed to atmospheric transmission variation.

That is,

$$R_A = \frac{L_{A_2}}{L_{A_1}} = \frac{BB_{12} \cdot \varepsilon_{A_2} \cdot \tau_2}{BB_{11} \cdot \varepsilon_{A_1} \cdot \tau_1} \qquad (5.15A)$$

$$S_{RR} = \left(\frac{\partial R}{\partial \tau_1}\right)^2 \cdot S_{\tau_1\tau_1} + \left(\frac{\partial R}{\partial \tau_2}\right)^2 \cdot S_{\tau_2\tau_2} + 2\rho \left(\frac{\partial R}{\partial \tau_1}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{\partial R}{\partial \tau_2}\right) \cdot \left(S_{\tau_2\tau_2} \cdot S_{\tau_1\tau_1}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \qquad (5.16)$$

since the variation in ε_{A_2} and in ε_{A_1} is such that $\frac{\varepsilon_{A_2}}{\varepsilon_{A_1}}$ is always constant and since BB_{12} and BB_{11} are physical constants which depend only on blackbody temperature. We may obtain an estimate of the sample variance in the radiance ratio for target A:

$$(S_{RR})_A = \left(\frac{BB_{12}}{BB_{11}}\right)^2 \cdot \left(\frac{\varepsilon_{A_2}}{\varepsilon_{A_1}}\right)^2 \cdot \left(\frac{-\tau_2}{\tau_1^2}\right)^2 \cdot S_{\tau_1\tau_1} + \left(\frac{BB_{12}}{BB_{11}}\right)^2 \cdot \left(\frac{\varepsilon_{A_2}}{\varepsilon_{A_1}}\right)^2 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\tau_1}\right)^2 \cdot S_{\tau_2\tau_2}$$

$$+ 2\left(\frac{BB_{12}}{BB_{11}}\right)^2 \cdot \left(\frac{\varepsilon_{A_2}}{\varepsilon_{A_1}}\right)^2 \cdot \left(-\frac{\tau_2}{\tau_1^2}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\tau_1}\right) \cdot \rho \cdot \left(S_{\tau_2\tau_2} \cdot S_{\tau_1\tau_1}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \qquad (5.17)$$

Further modelling calculations were performed on the ratio of the radiance from the target, compared to that from the background in two different bands. That is, the ratio:

$$\frac{L_{A_2}}{L_{A_1}} = \frac{B_{12}}{B_{11}} \cdot \frac{\varepsilon_{A_2}}{\varepsilon_{A_1}} \cdot \frac{\tau_2}{\tau_1} \qquad (5.15)$$

where L_{A_2} is the radiant emittance from target A in band 2 (11.0-12.0 μm) and L_{A_1} is the radiant emittance from target A in band 1 (3.5-4.1 μm). B_{12} is the blackbody radiant exitance from target A in band 2 while B_{11} is the blackbody radiant exitance from target A in band 1.

If ε_{A_1} and ε_{A_2} are the average emissivities of the target A in bands 1 and 2, then, from the work of (e.g.) Maxwell[302] it is reasonable to assume that there is little wavelength dependence of the emissivities, so that;

$$\frac{\varepsilon_{A_2}}{\varepsilon_{A_1}} = 1.0 \text{ (approximately)}$$

Further variations in ε_{A_2} will be very strongly correlated to those in ε_{A_1}, so that the ratio;

$$\frac{\varepsilon_{A_2}}{\varepsilon_{A_1}}$$

will change very little with variations in ε_A: the same reasoning may be applied to the emissivity of target B.

Three graphs are shown of the same calculations at different rotations, in order to best present detail. Like calculations were performed for the 11.0-12.0 μm bandpass. Examples of these calculations are shown in Figs. B1 to B6. Figures B1 through B3 show calculations of D.F. as a function of (T_A, ($1 - \varepsilon_A$)) at different rotations about the vertical (D.F.) axis where $\tau = 1.00$ and $\varepsilon_B = 0.90$. Figs. B4 through B6 show similar calculations, with like rotations about the D.F. axis, for $\tau = 0.60$ and $\varepsilon_B = 0.85$. The D.F. peaks where target and background emissivities are similar, especially at target temperatures close to that of the background, as one would expect. However, discrimination of target from background with even turbid, variable atmospheric transmission and with variable target and background emissivities appears possible, for some circumstances even with temperature differences as small as 1 degree Kelvin. The three-dimensional plots show the interactive effect of target-to-background emissivity contrast and temperature differences, for different atmospheric transmissions. As expected, the higher atmospheric turbidity and higher atmospheric variability yielded a larger D.F.. Where the temperatures and emissivities of target and background were similar discrimination was impossible. The variation of the recorded exitance would cause blurring of the characteristic radiant exitance vs. wavelength curves for both target and background. The closer the emissivity values, the closer (and less seperable) the curves.

In calculations performed, the covariance term was always small. The target temperature was allowed to vary at 1 degree K increments from 265K to 285K . The background temperature was always taken to be 275K . The target emissivity was allowed to vary at 0.10 increments from 0.05 to 0.95. The emissivity of the background was taken to be 0.85 and (in a separate run) 0.90. Atmospheric transmission was taken to be 0.60 to 1.00 in 0.10 increments. The coefficient of variation (standard deviation divided by the mean) for the emissivities was taken to be 0.05, while that of the atmospheric transmission was taken to be 0.05 also. Selected examples of the results of these comprehensive calculations for the bandpass 3.5-4.1 μm are shown in Figs. A1 to A6. For each data plot, the discrimination function (D.F.) is shown as the vertical axis, while the two horizontal; mutually orthogonal axes are target temperature (T_A)(temperature of background (T_B) always assumed equal to 275K) and ($1 - \varepsilon_A$). Figs. A1 through A3 show, for different rotations about the vertical (D.F.) axis, the value of D.F. plotted as a function of (T_A, ($1 - \varepsilon_A$)). For these calculations ε_B = 90 and atmospheric transmission τ = 1.00. Figs. A4 through A6 show similar calculations, with like rotations about the D.F. axis, for τ = 0.70 and ε_B = 0.85. Each plot of D.F. as a function of (T_A, ($1 - \varepsilon_A$)) is plotted for selected constant background emissivity and atmospheric transmission values.

Now, as discussed in section 3, the half-width of the 95 percent confidence interval (or of any other pre-selected confidence interval) on the mean radiance difference from samples of pixels taken over target and background must be greater than the difference in the mean radiance levels (for the bandpass used).

$$\text{i.e.} \qquad \text{D.F.} = \frac{\text{H.W.} \left\{ \bar{L}_A - \bar{L}_B \right\}}{\left| \bar{L}_A - \bar{L}_B \right|} \qquad (5.13)$$

must be smaller than 1.0 for discrimination to occur. We considered samples of 20 pixels in computing the student t-factor $t_{0.5,m}$ for the 95% confidence interval;

$$\left(\frac{t_{0.5,m-1}}{\sqrt{m}} \right) \cdot \left\{ S_{L_A L_A} + S_{L_B L_B} \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} = \text{H.W.} \left\{ \bar{L}_A - \bar{L}_B \right\} \qquad (5.14)$$

Thus the discrimination function (D.F.) may be calculated from equations (5.11) - (5.14).

Thus, for a single bandpass:

$$S_{L_A L_A} = \left(\frac{\partial L_A}{\partial \varepsilon_A}\right)^2 \cdot S_{\varepsilon_A \varepsilon_A} + \left(\frac{\partial L_A}{\partial \tau}\right)^2 \cdot S_{\tau\tau} + 2\left(\frac{\partial L_A}{\partial \varepsilon_A}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{\partial L_A}{\partial \tau}\right) \cdot S_{\varepsilon_A \tau} \tag{5.9}$$

$$S_{L_B L_B} = \left(\frac{\partial L_B}{\partial \varepsilon_B}\right)^2 \cdot S_{\varepsilon_B \varepsilon_B} + \left(\frac{\partial L_B}{\partial \tau}\right)^2 \cdot S_{\tau\tau} + 2\left(\frac{\partial L_B}{\partial \varepsilon_B}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{\partial L_B}{\partial \tau}\right) \cdot S_{\varepsilon_B \tau} \tag{5.10}$$

from equations (5.5) - (5.10), the sample variances in the radiance recorded from target and from background in a selected band are, respectively:

$$S_{L_A L_A} = \tau^2 \cdot BB_{1r}^2 \cdot S_{\varepsilon_A \varepsilon_A} + \varepsilon_A^2 \cdot BB_{1r}^2 \cdot S_{\tau\tau} + 2\varepsilon_A \cdot \tau \cdot BB_{1r}^2 \cdot \rho(S_{\tau\tau} \cdot S_{\varepsilon_A \varepsilon_A})^{\frac{1}{2}} \tag{5.11}$$

$$S_{L_B L_B} = \tau^2 \cdot BB_{2r}^2 \cdot S_{\varepsilon_B \varepsilon_B} + \varepsilon_B^2 \cdot BB_{2r}^2 \cdot S_{\tau\tau} + 2\varepsilon_B \cdot \tau \cdot BB_{2r}^2 \cdot \rho(S_{\tau\tau} \cdot S_{\varepsilon_B \varepsilon_B})^{\frac{1}{2}} \tag{5.12}$$

while that from the background was:

$$L_{Br} = \varepsilon_{BR} \cdot \tau_r \cdot BB_{2r} \qquad (5.6)$$

where:

ε_{Ar} = emissivity of the target A in bandpass r.

ε_{Br} = emissivity of the background B in bandpass r.

τ_r = atmospheric transmission in band r.

BB_{1r} = blackbody emissivity for the target (1) at temperature T_1.

BB_{2r} = blackbody emissivity for the background (2) at temperature T_2

It may be shown (e.g. [69, 58]) that where a dependent variable (v) is a function of two other variables (x,y), then the sample variance in the dependent variable (v) is given by:

$$S_{VV} = \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial x}\right)^2 \cdot S_{xx} + \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial y}\right) \cdot S_{yy} + \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial x}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial y}\right) \cdot S_{xy} + \text{lower order terms} \qquad (5.7)$$

Here the terms of a lower order of magnitude are generally negligible where the coefficient of variation of each of the variables x, y is less than about 0.20 and the covariance may be expressed using the well-known formula:

$$S_{xy} = \rho \cdot \left(S_{xx}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \cdot \left(S_{yy}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \qquad (5.8)$$

where ρ is the correlation coefficient between the two sample distributions.

different bandpasses.

Studies of the Infrared Handbook [14] showed that atmospheric transmission is maximum in the regions 3.5-4.1 μm and 10.0-12.0 μm. For the purposes of this study, we have, for reasons of time, restricted our attention to target discriminability in each of the bands 3.5-4.1 μm and 11.0-12.0 μm and for the ratio of the radiance recorded in these bands. We considered the effect of random variations in target and background emissivities and in atmospheric transmission on the discriminability of target from background. The case of the thermal infrared region may be seen from the general principles referred to in section 3 to be simpler than the optical-reflective region: scattering processes cause fluctuations in target illumination, with a consequent effect on target radiance fluctuation only in the optical-reflective region.

We considered first the case where a target was to be discriminated from background in each of the above-mentioned two bandpasses. Here the radiance from the target was:

$$L_{Ar} = \varepsilon_{AR} \cdot \tau_r \cdot BB_{1r} \qquad (5.5)$$

This expression may be written as:

$$M_\lambda = \frac{C_1 \lambda^{-5}}{\left\{\exp\left\{\frac{C_2}{\lambda T}\right\} - 1\right\}} \qquad (5.2)$$

where $C_1 = 2\pi hc^2$

and $C_2 = \frac{hc}{k}$

The total (i.e., integrated over the electromagnetic spectrum) radiant exitance of a blackbody is given by:

$$M_{TOT} = \frac{C_1}{C_2^4} \cdot \frac{\pi^4}{15} \cdot T^4 \quad (W m^{-2}) \qquad (5.3)$$

Of course, the quantities used in the above expressions could just as easily be expressed in c.g.s. units, so that $M\lambda$ and M_{TOT} would appear in c.g.s. units.

The in-band radiance $M_{\Delta\lambda}$ is approximately expressed as:

$$M_{\Delta\lambda} = \frac{C_1}{C_2^4} T^4 \left[\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \cdot \frac{1}{n^4} \left\{ (n\lambda)^3 + 3(n\lambda)^2 + 6n\lambda + 6 \right\} e^{-n\lambda} \right]_{\lambda=\lambda_1}^{\lambda=\lambda_2} \qquad (5.4)$$

This expression was used to calculate tabular values of blackbody exitance for different temperatures and for

In this case, because of the broad aims of the study, it has been decided to use the assumption that the target and background act as Lambertian greybodies with almost wavelength-independent emissivities at any given wavelength. (e.g. [302]). This is a simplistic assumption. However, for first-order calculations, in the light of conversations with several researchers in the field and after a perusal of available unclassified literature, this was considered to be a reasonable starting point.

The Planck radiation law may be used to calculate the total radiant exitance of a blackbody at a selected temperature. This is shown in equation (5.1).

$$M_\lambda = \frac{2\pi hc^2}{\lambda^5} \left\{ \frac{1}{\exp\left\{\frac{hc}{K\lambda T}\right\} - 1} \right\} \qquad (5.1)$$

where M_λ is the energy radiated per unit wavelength per second, per unit area of the blackbody (W_m^{-2} $A^{0-1'}$) (radiant exitance)

h = Planck's constant (J sec^{-1})

c = speed of light (m sec^{-1})

k = Boltzmann constant (J $°K^{-1}$)

λ = wavelength

T = absolute temperature (°K)

accumulation of scene elements, each of which has its own angular anisotropy, considerable difficulty may arise in consistent target detection, discrimination, tracking and quantification, depending upon the location of the target with respect to the maximum of the point spread function of each detector element, if the target occupies less than 1 or 2 pixels. Preliminary studies have shown that there are possibilities of improving contrast enhancement by dynamic viewing or "dithering" (e.g. [282]) the two dimensional array. At present, very few studies have been reported in the unclassified literature. There is a real need to be aware of the interaction of scene heterogeneity, atmospheric transmission fluctuations, obscurants [77-89], and target aspect with the sensing device in order to be able to define the optimum parametric envelope for target discrimination, detection, tracking and quantification. Much more work appears to be needed here.

5. MODELLING STUDIES

A considerable body of theory exists for the modelling of the interaction of electromagnetic radiation with dielectric media. Generally, these models have been idealized (e.g. [14, 302-326]).

varying point spread function from detector element to detector element. However, the advantages of such a system are that it does not entail moving components such as the oscillating mirror or rotating mirror utilized in scanning devices and should therefore have enhanced reliability. It is suggested that the success of such devices will rely heavily upon the development of adequate onboard preprocessing facilities (smart sensor devices e.g. [157]).

A staring array consists of a two-dimensional matrix of either quantum detectors (such as silicon) or of pyroelectric detectors which record information in the optical reflective, mid-infrared or thermal infrared parts of the spectrum. In the case where charge coupled devices (CCD's) or charge injection devices (CID's) are utilized, most of the area occupied by the array can consist purely of sensing elements. Where the photodetectors and the circuitry involved in transferring the charge to different registers is located on a single plane, then perhaps only 50% of the "real estate" of the array element may be occupied by sensors. The disadvantages of the two-dimensional array are the same as mentioned for the multispectral pushbroom scanner. The point-spread function may look something like that shown in Figure 13 for each element of the array. There may be slight differences from element to element, and there may be slight differences in the absolute calibration (radiometrically) of each element. Thus, when a staring array views a scene consisting of a heterogeneous

Fig. C3 shows a case where the coefficients of variation for τ_1 and τ_2 are 0.05 and where the correlation coefficient between radiance recorded in the two bands is 0.90: clearly, an increased correlation between radiance recorded in bands 1 and 2 (3.5 - 4.1 and 11.0 - 12.0 μm) increases the discriminability of target from background (reduces D.F.). In general we found that as might be expected, the more variable the atmosphere, the larger D.F.. However, the discrimination function (D.F.) is generally < 1.0 where the target temperature is within 1^{o} K of that of the background.

It is significant that discrimination is independent of target/background emissivity contrast using the ratio method and that for target/background contrasts of 1^{o}K (or less) discrimination appears more probable at the 95% confidence level than for either of the single bands, for the levels of atmospheric turbidity variance considered. Thus, the ratio method would appear superior to the single-channel method and would seem to be free of the dependence on emissivity variation.

6. CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

Here, we present the conclusions drawn from this study, plus general suggestions which one of us (MJD) has long thought necessary steps in a research program to increase the accuracy of target detection, classification, quantification and tracking.

1. The discrimination of targets from background under the selected atmospheric conditions used in the modelling calculations demonstrates the feasibility of detection for small (e.g. 1 degree Kelvin = $1^{o}C$) temperature differences. It appears that, for atmospheric transmission and ground emissivity random variations which may be expected the technique of using ratioed radiance values for the bandpasses 3.5-4.1 μm and 11.0 - 12.0 μm for reasons discussed above offers advantages over the discrimination possible using radiance data recorded in either of the single bands 3.5 - 4.1 μm and 11.0 - 12.0 μm.

2. Real time contrast enhancement using histogram stretching, geometric stretching or other contrast enhancement techniques with micro-chip technology appears to be a possibility, providing that the target occupies that portion of the instantaneous field of view (IFOV) which has the maximum point spread function: (an area which needs research). Clearly if the target is smaller than the pixel

(IFOV at ground level) then the contrast between the pixel containing the target and the pixels containing only background material will depend upon the position of the point spread function with respect to the target. This is an area which needs considerable study. It is suggested that little data exists on the point spread function of any detecting device and that little is known about improvements in contrast between target containing pixels and background pixels using dynamic viewing or "dithering" techniques. This area is a major gap in present technology and must be closed, otherwise predictable discrimination, identification and quantification of targets may not be possible.

3. The inherent polarization of detection devices is a relatively unexplored field. Work in the optical reflective region (e.g. [287-301]) shows target radiance to be polarized: studies performed in 1974 by Maxwell et al in the emitted infrared part of the spectrum [302] show polarization to exist in an angularly anisotropic manner in the thermal infrared region. Although considerable angular anisotropy in polarization differences with vertical and horizontal polarizations have been detected, little is apparently known about the interaction of such polarized scene radiance with inherent sensor polarization effects: indeed inherent polarization of detectors appears to have received little attention.

Quantitative measurements are necessary here in order to ensure predictable accuracy of targeting data. It is essential that the interaction of polarized scene radiance, the depolarizing effect of the atmosphere, the polarized sky radiance and the inherent polarization of the sensing devices be investigated to provide optimum targeting data. That is, it is essential to minimize failure to detect targets, to minimize misclassification of targets and to utilize all potentially available information to detect, quantify and track targets.

4. The possible combination of multiband approaches in which polarization effects are utilized appears attractive, since polarization differences in scene radiance or in target versus sky radiance are markedly greater in the ultraviolet part of the spectrum as compared to, for example, the emitted infrared part of the spectrum. Such considerations are, it is suggested, of vital importance in horizon and nadir-viewing sensors based on satellite or high altitude airborne platforms. They may also be of use in skytracking camera and in missile terminal guidance systems.

5. The utilization of staring sensors to detect target motion necessitates the knowledge of the point-spread function of each element of the array or of any other device which is used to image a scene. This is because a movement of less than 1 pixel in sensor pointing will change the radiometric and spectral signature from the scene because of the movement of the point-spread function with respect to the target/background composite scene.

6. The effects of scene obscurants and their interaction with elements of two-dimensional arrays needs to be further studied. Clearly, each element will have a slightly different absolute radiometric sensitivity, spectral response, inherent polarization (especially in the case of ferroelectric pyroelectric devices) and also point spread function. Such inter-detector differences can lead to errors in an image.

7. Cirrus and unresolved cloud, as well as localized obscurants will manifest themselves as scene elements (i.e. components of a heterogeneous pixel). The effects of these components upon radiometric signatures needs considerable study in so far as it effects target detection, tracking and quantification. Modelling studies would be inexpensive and a logical first step.

8. A model for the two-dimensional array in which the point-spread functions are mapped in a two-dimensional diagram is necessary before it is possible to determine the optimum method of dynamic viewing. It is suspected that this will depend upon the angular viewing regime and upon the target-to-background contrast as well as upon the portion of the pixel occupied by the target and upon target aspect.

9. Further modelling studies should be performed and should integrate terrestrial vegetation emittance models in order to predict parametric envelopes for optimum data acquisition and analysis. For reasons discussed in section 3, it will be necessary to model sensor output for each sensor element in a two-dimensional array, pushbroom array, or scanning device so as to take into account the radiometric point or line spread functions spectral response, polarization characteristics, detector noise, and the interaction of each of these parameters with spectral scene radiance. The importance of the difference in angular anisotropy in scene radiance from each scene component will depend upon the point-spread function of each scene element. Models of typical arrays could be used mathematically to predict optimum dynamic viewing conditions to optimize target-to-background discrimination under different atmospheric and meteorological conditions, for different geographical regions and for different sensor types. Further, utilizing the techniques of modelling studies could suggest possible new sensor combinations to optimize target discrimination, tracking and quantification.

10. It is strongly recommended that this work be continued and that modelling studies incorporating some or all of the above be pursued as a matter of urgency in order

to better define optimum parametric envelopes for optimal data acquisition and real-time processing. It has been shown that targets and backgrounds which are similar in temperature may be discriminated under a variety of atmospheric conditions. The suite of data used in such studies should be expanded, the models made more sophisticated so as to include spectral and point-spread function information on the sensing devices. Random and systematic error sources described above should also be further investigated in order to determine their effects on target detection, tracking and quantification accuracy.

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FIGURE CAPTIONS

Fig. 1. Overall picture of interactions between incident and reflected radiance, the atmosphere and the earth's surface.

Fig. 2. Interactions between solar radiance and the earth's atmosphere.

Fig. 3. Nomenclature for the interactions of light energy at the earth's surface. Hemispherical-directional reflectance.

Fig. 4. Angular notation relating incident and reflected radiance. Bidirectional reflectance.

Fig. 5. Angular notation for reflected target radiance.

Fig. 6. Wavelength dependence and view zenith angle dependence of bidirectional reflectance factor for wheat at boot stage, for solar zenith and azimuth angles typical for NOAA-6 ephemeris. The LARSPEC data base was used in this calculation[36,70].

Fig. 7. The relationship between incident, absorbed and reflected radiance.

Fig. 8. The relationship between radiance from the target, absorbed radiance and radiance scattered from the beam to the sensor.

Fig. 9. Wavelength dependence of those factors which determine sensor output.

Fig. 10. Showing that two sensors with the same nominal half-power and zero-power bandpass values and wavelength limits can differ so as to produce different sensor outputs when viewing the same target.

Fig. 11. Flow chart showing those factors controlling variations in sensor output in the optical reflective part of the spectrum.

Fig. 12. Flow chart showing those factors controlling variations in sensor output in the thermal infrared part of the spectrum.

Fig. 13. The superposition of a hypothetical contoured point-spread function for a detector on a heterogeneous pixel, showing that the movement of the instanteous field of view by a fraction of a pixel can change the sensor output.

Fig. 14. The dependence of the vegetation index contrast ratio (VIN_{MAX}/VIN_{MIN}) on view zenith angle and on the percentage of unresolved cloud in the IFOV over the targets to be distinguished (percentage of cloud assumed to be the same in each case). Here (VIN = AVHRR2/AVHRR1) and the atmosphere is clear (meteorological range > 50 km).

Fig. 15. The dependence of the contrast ratio (VIN_{MAX}/VIN_{MIN}) on view zenith angle and on the percentage of unresolved cloud in the IFOV over the targets to be distinguished (percentage of cloud assumed to be the same in each case). Here (VIN = AVHRR2/AVHRR1) and the atmosphere is turbid (meteorological range < 10 km).

Fig. 16. The relationship between emitted thermal target radiance, atmospheric extinction and radiance incident on the sensor.

Figs. A1-A3. The calculated relationship between the discriminability function (D.F.) for detector bandpass 3.5-4.1 μm, target temperature T_A and $(1 - \varepsilon_A)$ where ε_A = target emissivity for background temperature $T_B = 275^{\circ}K$, background emissivity $\varepsilon_B = 0.90$ and atmospheric transmission $\tau = 1.00$. The degree of variation in emissivity and atmospheric transmission considered is discussed in the text. Three different rotations of the same calculated data are shown.

Figs. A4-A6. Similar to Figs. A1-A3, but for $\tau = 0.70$ and $\varepsilon_B = 0.85$.

Figs. B1-B3. Similar to Figs. A1-A3 but for detector bandpass 11.0 - 12.0 μm: $\tau = 1.00$ and $\varepsilon_B = 0.90$.

Figs. B4-B6. Similar to Figs. B1-B3 but for $\tau = 0.60$ and $\varepsilon_B = 0.85$.

Fig. C1. The discriminability function (D.F.) is shown as a function of the ratio of the atmospheric transmission values τ_1 and τ_2 in two bandpasses and as a function of target temperature T_A. The correlation coefficient between the radiance recorded from the target in each bandpass is taken to be 0.1 Here the coefficients of variation in the emissivities of target ε_A and of background ε_B and in atmospheric transmission values τ_1, τ_2 are taken as 0.01. The emissivity of the target is assumed to be spectrally invariant.

Fig. C2. As Fig. C1 but with the coefficients of variation in ε_A, ε_B, τ_1 and τ_2 = 0.05.

Fig. C3. As Fig. C1 . but with the correlation coefficient between the radiance values recorded from the target in bands 1 and 2 (3.5 - 4.1 μm and 11.0 - 12.0 μm respectively) taken to be 0.90.

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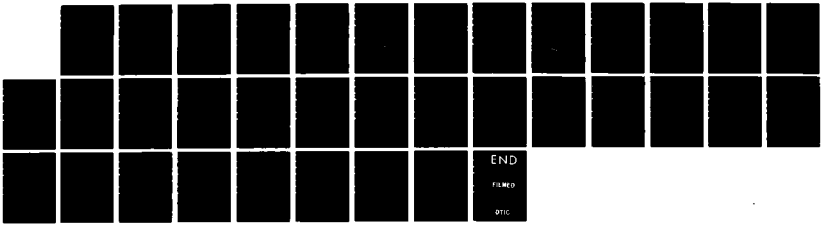
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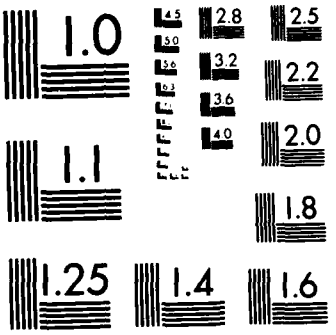
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AD-A154 070 TARGET DISCRIMINATION USING INFRARED TECHNIQUES: 2/2
THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS(U) STATE UNIV OF NEW YORK AT
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HETEROGENEOUS (MIXED) SCENE IN IFOV (MIXED PIXEL) OMITTING

FUNCTION INTERACTION

$$\left[\begin{array}{c}\text{RELATIVE}\\ \text{SENSOR}\\ \text{OUTPUT}\\ \text{IN BAND}\\ r\end{array}\right] = \frac{\displaystyle\int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} I(\lambda).\left\{\left[\begin{array}{c}\text{SPECTRAL}\\ \text{RADIANCE}\\ \text{FROM}\\ \text{TARGET}\\ \text{ELEMENT 1}\end{array}\right] + \left[\begin{array}{c}\text{SPECTRAL}\\ \text{RADIANCE}\\ \text{FROM}\\ \text{TARGET}\\ \text{ELEMENT 2}\end{array}\right] +\ldots+ \left[\begin{array}{c}\text{SPECTRAL}\\ \text{RADIANCE}\\ \text{FROM}\\ \text{TARGET}\\ \text{ELEMENT n}\end{array}\right] +\ldots+ \left[\begin{array}{c}\text{SPECTRAL}\\ \text{RADIANCE}\\ \text{FROM}\\ \text{ATMOSPHERE}\end{array}\right]\right\}.d\lambda}{\displaystyle\int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} I(\lambda).d\lambda}$$

WHERE: (OPTICAL REFLECTIVE CASE)

$$\left[\begin{array}{c}\text{SPECTRAL}\\ \text{RADIANCE}\\ \text{FROM}\\ \text{TARGET}\\ \text{ELEMENT n}\end{array}\right] = \left[\sum_{\text{HEMISPHERE}} \left(\begin{array}{c}\text{SPECTRAL}\\ \text{SKY}\\ \text{RADIANCE}\\ \text{FROM}\\ \theta,\phi\end{array}\right) \times \left(\begin{array}{c}\text{SPECTRAL}\\ \text{BIDIRECTIONAL}\\ \text{REFLECTANCE}\\ \text{FACTOR}\\ R_n(\vartheta,\varphi;\theta',\varphi',\lambda)\end{array}\right) \times \left(\begin{array}{c}\text{FRACTION}\\ \text{OF IFOV}\\ \text{(PIXEL)}\\ \text{FILLED BY}\\ \text{TARGET n}\end{array}\right)\right.$$

$$\left. + \left(\begin{array}{c}\text{SPECTRAL}\\ \text{SOLAR}\\ \text{RADIANCE}\\ \text{FROM } \theta,\phi\end{array}\right) \times \left(\begin{array}{c}\text{SPECTRAL}\\ \text{BIDIRECTIONAL}\\ \text{REFLECTANCE}\\ \text{FACTOR}\\ R_n(\vartheta,\phi;\theta',\phi',\lambda)\end{array}\right) \times \left(\begin{array}{c}\text{FRACTION}\\ \text{OF IFOV}\\ \text{(PIXEL)}\\ \text{FILLED BY}\\ \text{TARGET n}\end{array}\right)\right] \times \left[\begin{array}{c}\text{SPECTRAL}\\ \text{ATMOSPHERIC}\\ \text{EXTINCTION}\\ \text{COEFFICIENT}\end{array}\right] + \left[\begin{array}{c}\text{SPECTRAL}\\ \text{ATMOSPHERIC}\\ \text{PATH}\\ \text{RADIANCE}\end{array}\right]$$

TABLE 1

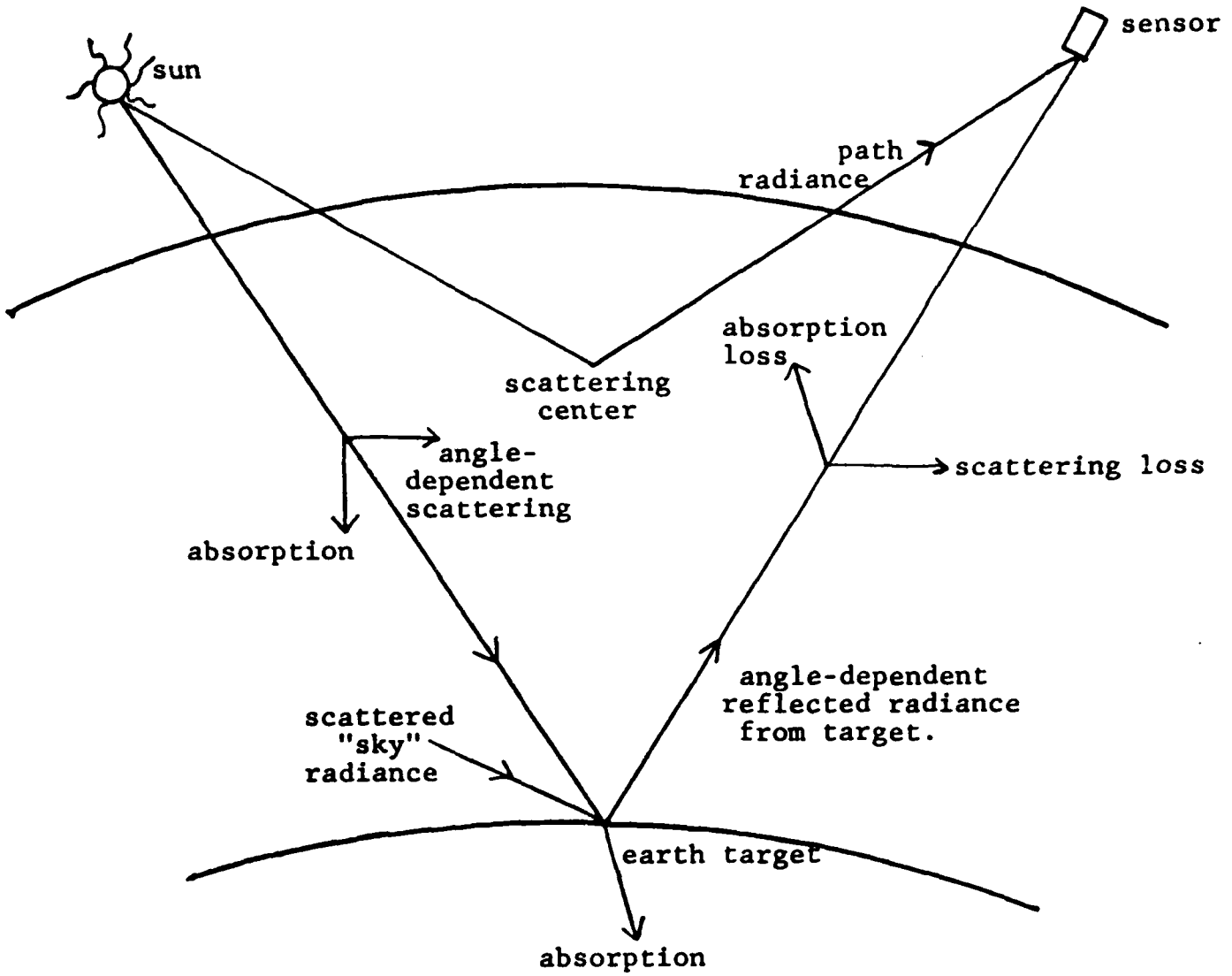

sensor
sun
path
radiance
absorption
loss
scattering
center
angle-
dependent
scattering
scattering loss
absorption
angle-dependent
reflected radiance
from target.
scattered
"sky"
radiance
earth target
absorption

FIG. 1

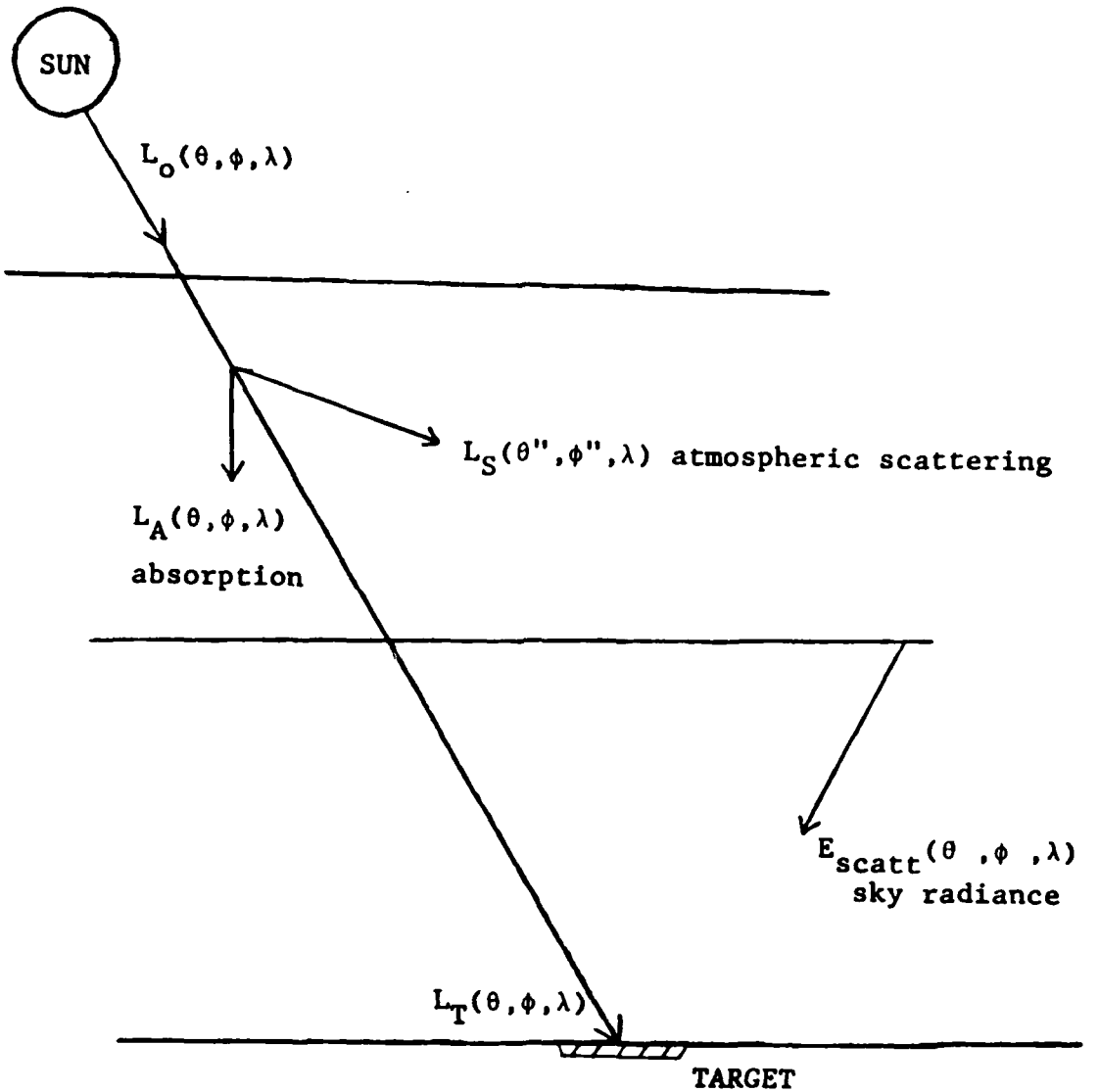

SUN
$L_o(\theta,\phi,\lambda)$
$L_S(\theta'',\phi'',\lambda)$ atmospheric scattering
$L_A(\theta,\phi,\lambda)$
absorption
$E_{scatt}(\theta,\phi,\lambda)$
sky radiance
$L_T(\theta,\phi,\lambda)$
TARGET

FIG. 2

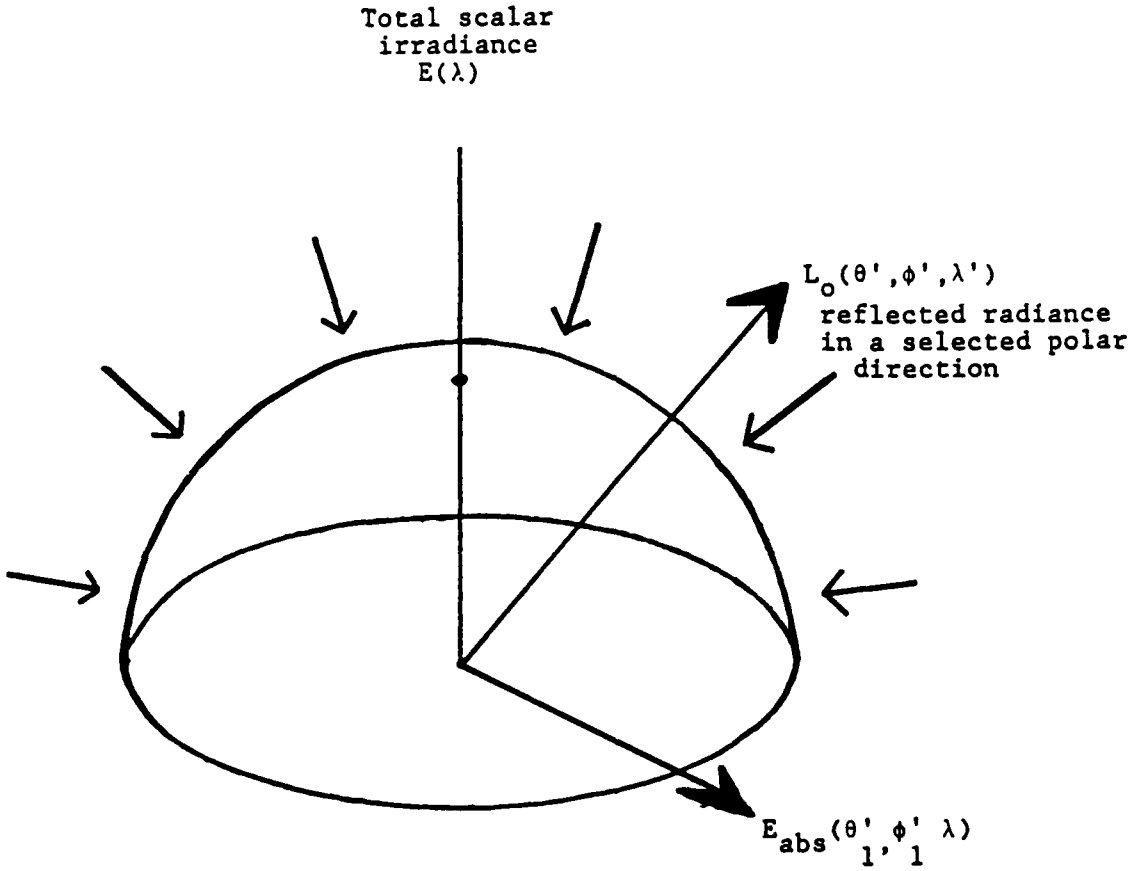
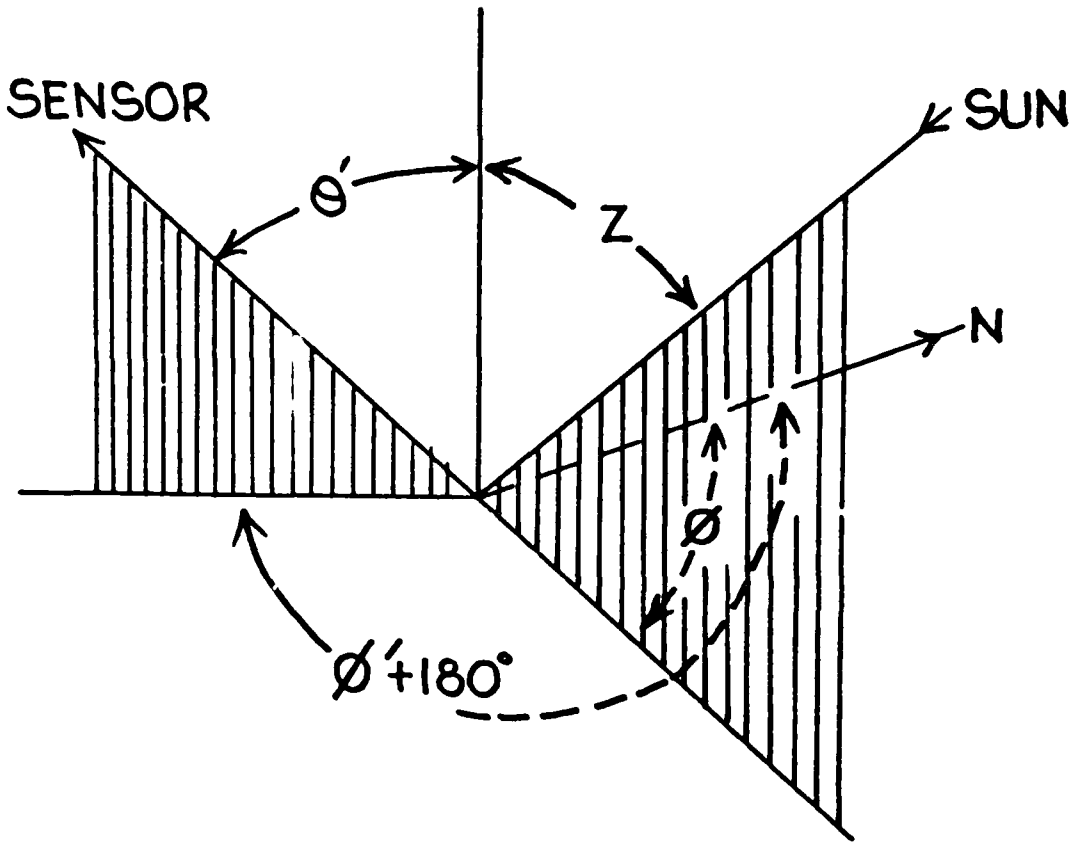

Total scalar
irradiance
E(λ)
$L_o(\theta',\phi',\lambda')$
reflected radiance
in a selected polar
direction
$E_{abs}(\theta'_1, \phi'_1, \lambda)$

Fig. 3.



ø = solar azimuth
(ø′+180) = detector azimuth (view azimuth)
Z = solar zenith angle
θ′ = view zenith angle

Fig. 4.

REFLECTED TARGET RADIANCE

$$\begin{bmatrix}\text{SPECTRAL}\\ \text{RADIANCE}\\ \text{FROM}\\ \text{TARGET}\end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix}\text{SPECTRAL}\\ \text{REFLECTED}\\ \text{SKY}\\ \text{RADIANCE}\end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix}\text{SPECTRAL}\\ \text{REFLECTED}\\ \text{SOLAR}\\ \text{RADIANCE}\end{bmatrix}$$

$$L_R(\theta,\phi;\theta',\phi',\lambda) = \int_0^{\pi}\int_0^{\pi} R(\theta,\phi;\theta',\phi',\lambda).\ E_{scatt}\ (\theta,\phi,\lambda)\ .d\theta\ .\ d\phi$$

$$+ L_T\ (\theta,\phi,\lambda).\ R\ (\theta,\phi;\theta',\phi',\lambda).$$

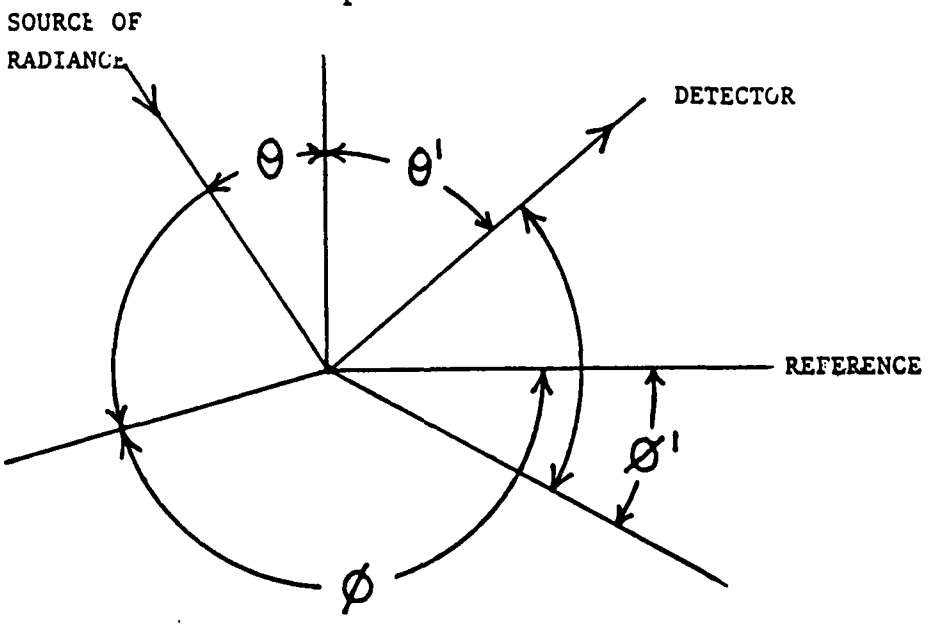
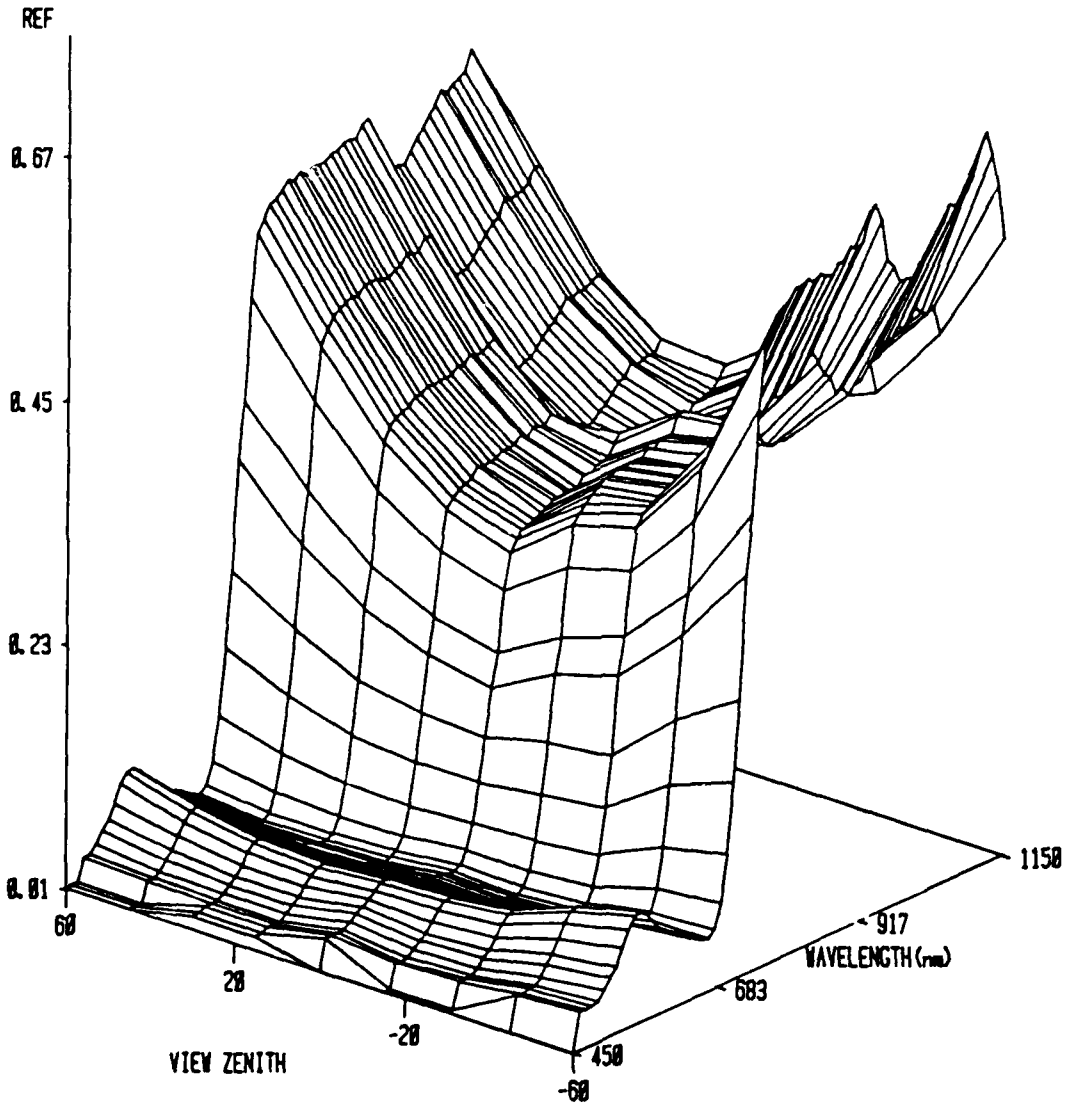


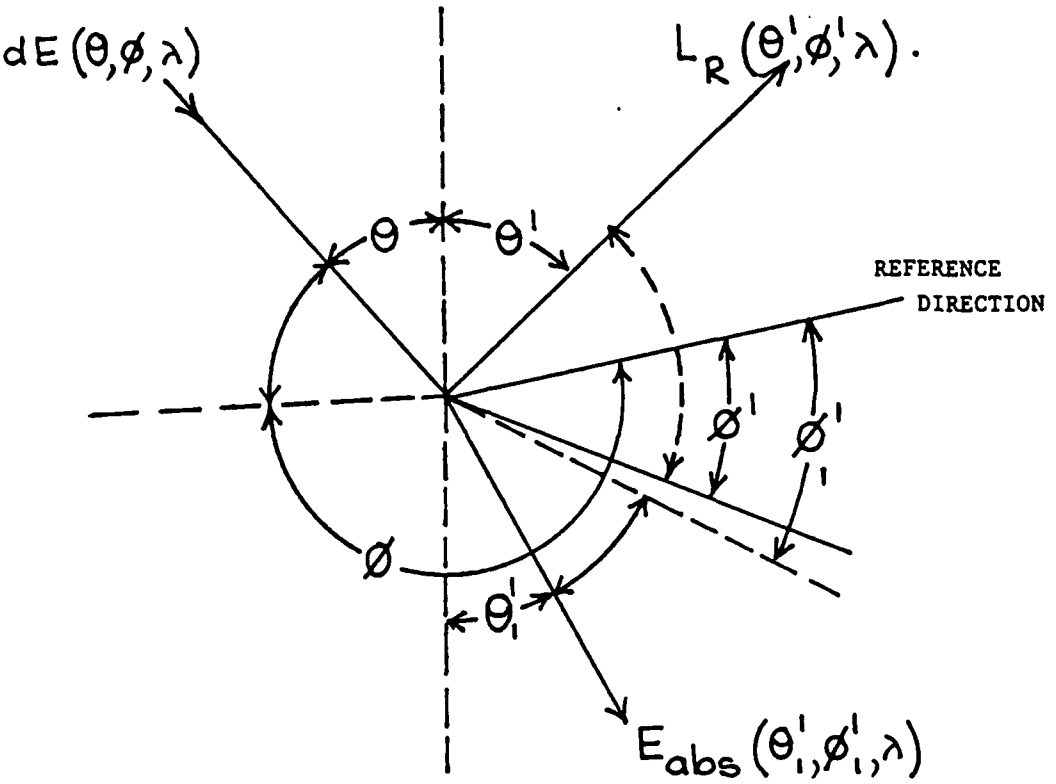
Fig. 5.

BIDIRECTIONAL REFLECTANCE FACTOR
AS A FUNCTION OF SCAN ANGLE AND WAVELENGTH
WHEAT AT 3.5 BOOT STAGE



GRAPH NUMBER
VIEW ZENITH DOWNSUN=−60, UPSUN=+60

FIG. 6



INCIDENT IRRADIANCE = REFLECTED RADIANCE + ABSORBED IRRADIANCE

$$E(\theta,\phi,\lambda) = \int_0^{\pi}\int_0^{\pi} L_R(\theta',\phi',\lambda)\ \mathrm{Cos}\ \theta'.d\theta'.d\phi' + \int_0^{\pi}\int_0^{\pi} E_{abs}(\theta'_i,\phi'_i,\lambda)\mathrm{Cos}\ \theta'_i.d\theta'_i.d\phi'_i$$

Fig. 7.

TRANSMITTED TARGET RADIANCE

$$\begin{bmatrix}\text{SPECTRAL}\\ \text{RADIANCE}\\ \text{INCIDENT}\\ \text{ON}\\ \text{DETECTOR}\end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix}\text{TRANSMITTED}\\ \text{SPECTRAL}\\ \text{TARGET}\\ \text{RADIANCE}\end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix}\text{PATH RADIANCE}\\ \text{(OPTICAL REFLECTIVE)}\\ \text{OR}\\ \text{SELF RADIANCE}\\ \text{(THERMAL IR)}\end{bmatrix}$$

TARGET RADIANCE — EXTINCTION COEFFICIENT

$$L_D(\theta,\phi;\theta',\phi',\lambda) = L_R(\theta,\phi;\theta',\phi',\lambda)\ .\exp\left[-\int_0^z\int_0^{\pi}\int_0^{\pi} \beta'_{ext}(\theta'',\phi'',\lambda,z)\,.\,d\theta''.d\phi''.dz\right]$$

$$+\int_0^{\pi}\int_0^{\pi} L_{path}\ (\theta,\phi;\theta',\phi',\lambda)\ d\theta\,.\,d\phi$$

ADDITIVE RADIANCE TERM DUE TO ATMOSPHERIC RADIANCE

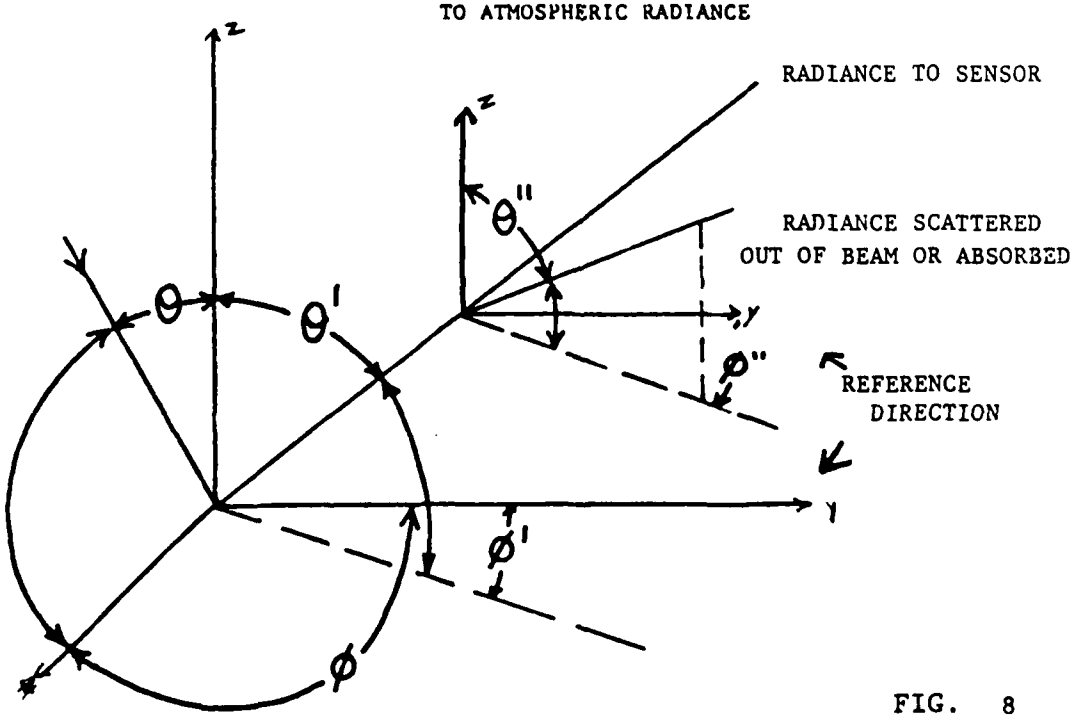
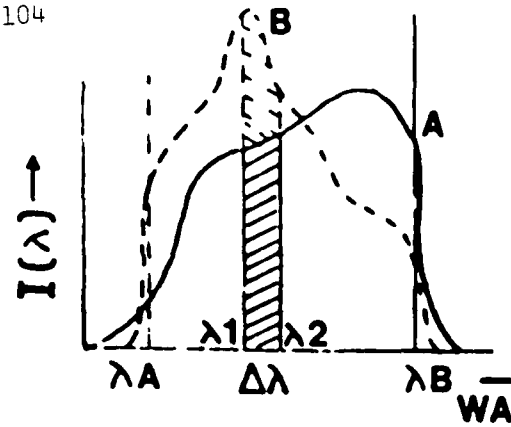
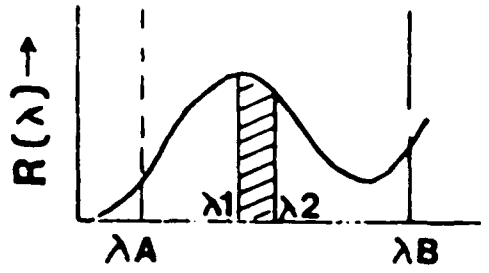


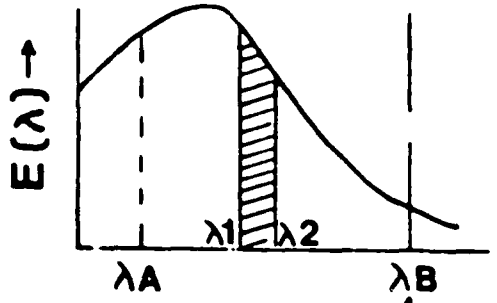
FIG. 8



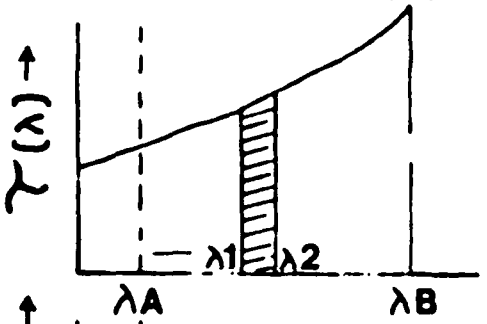
Spectral sensitivity of detector I(λ)



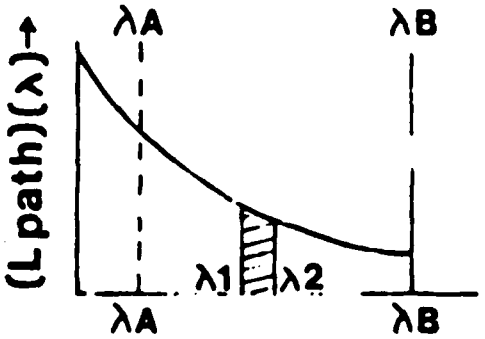
Spectral reflectance factor of target R(λ)



Spectral solar irradiance on target E(λ)

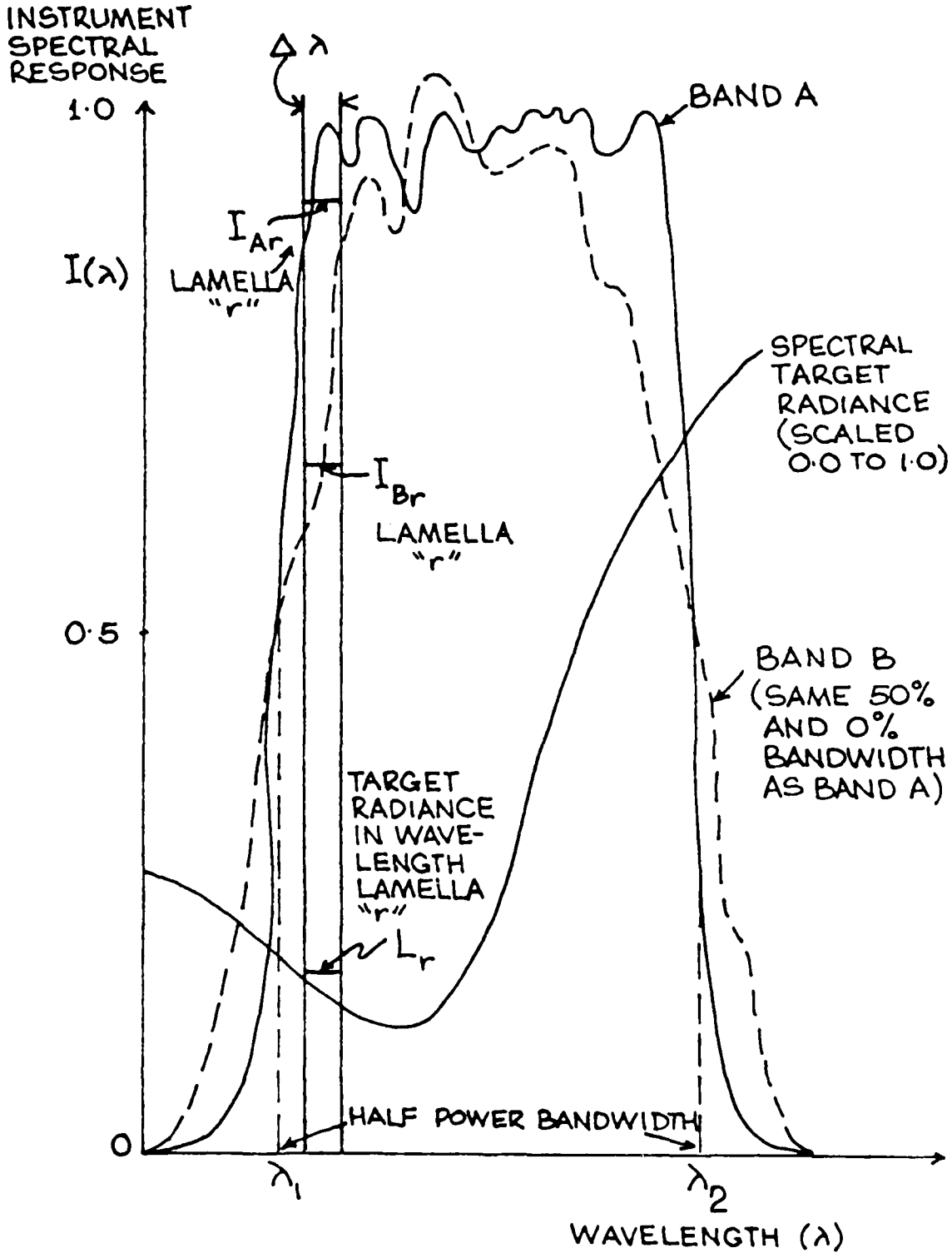


Spectral atmospheric transmission τ(λ)



Spectral atmospheric path radiance (Lpath)(λ)

FIG. 9

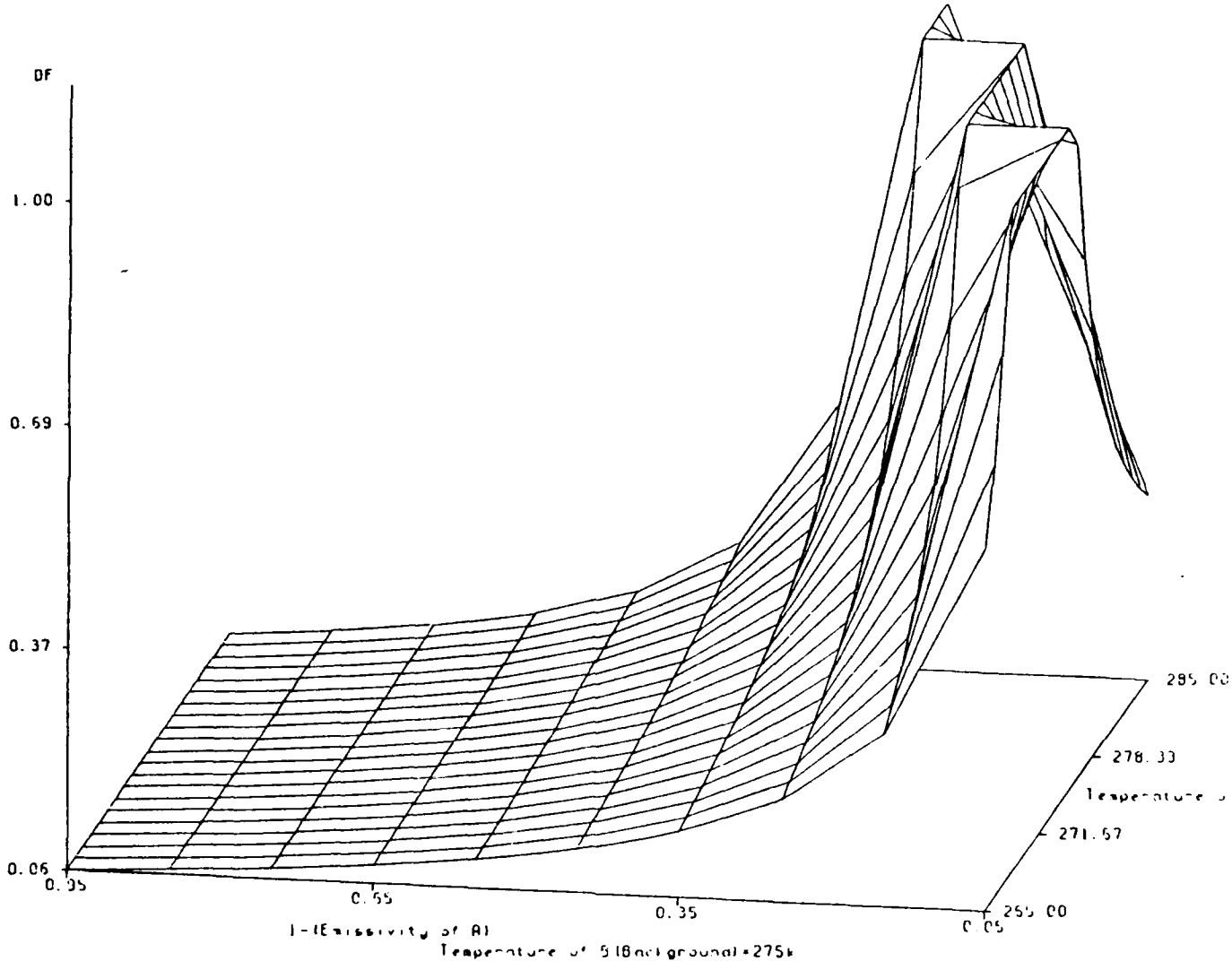


NOTE: $I_{Ar} \times L_r > I_{Br} \times L_r$

FIG. 10

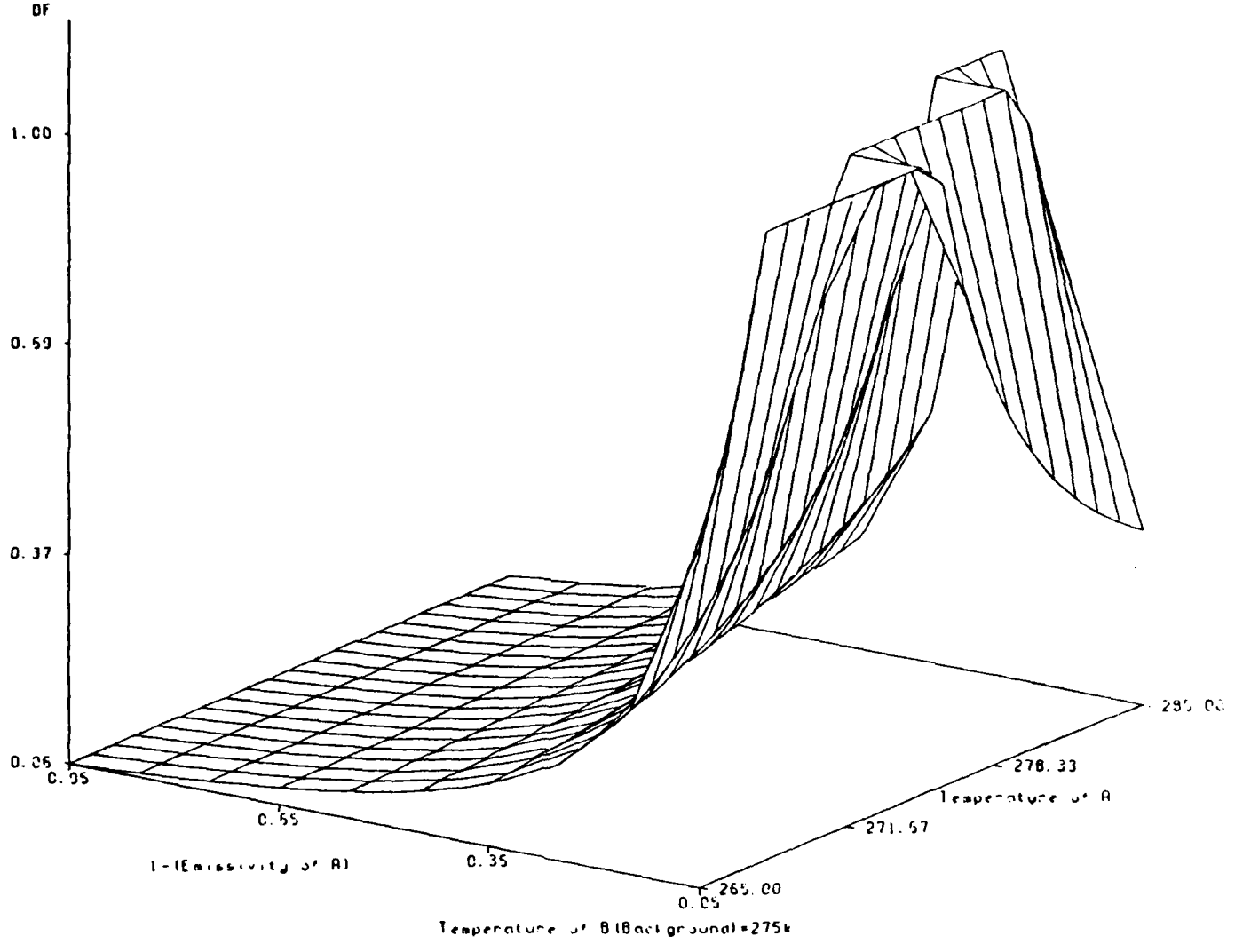
DISCRIMINATION FUNCTION
SINGLE BAND DATA (11-12 MICRONS)
Atmospheric Transmissivity = 1.0 Emissivity of Background = 0.9

B2



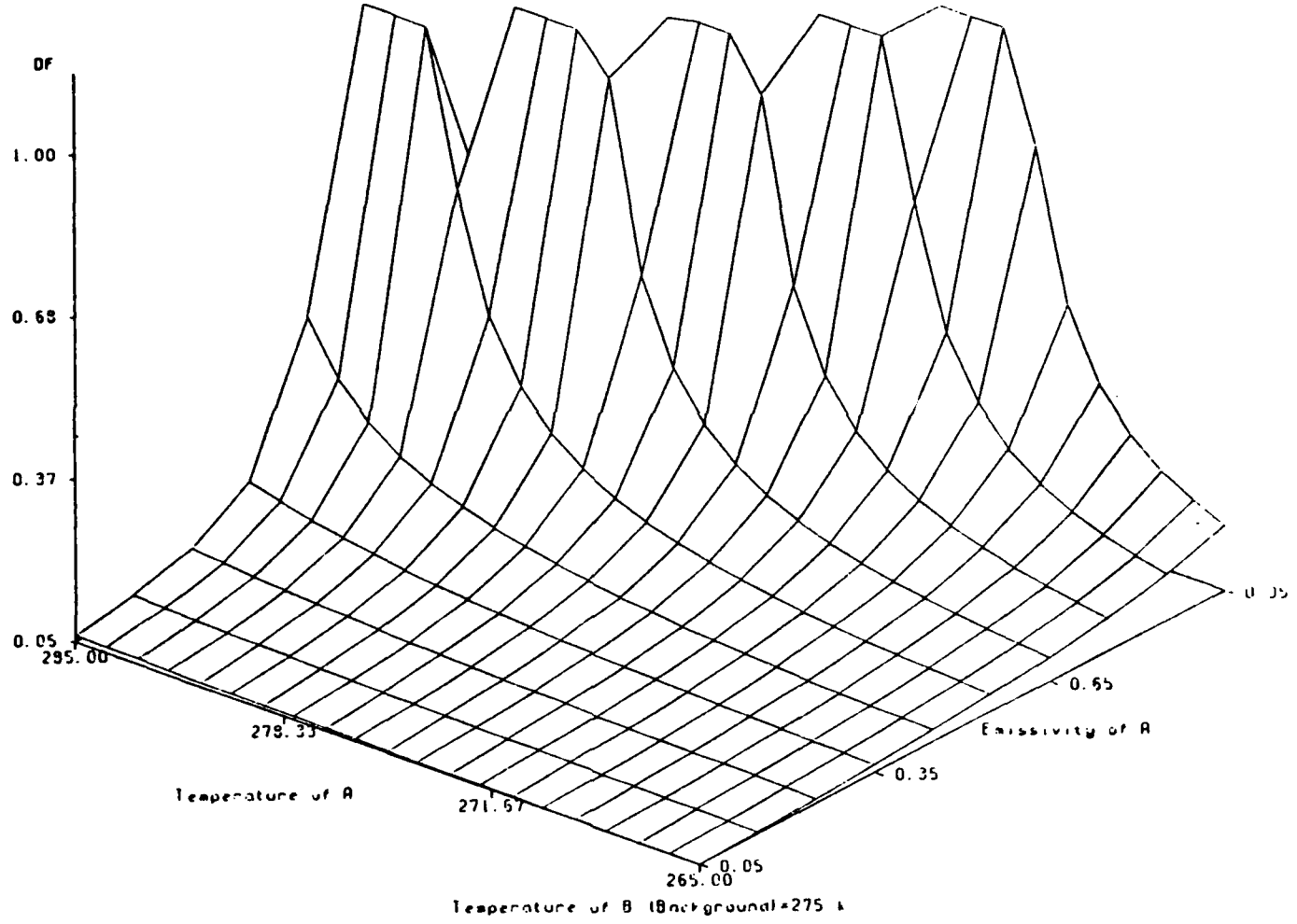
DISCRIMINATION FUNCTION
SINGLE BAND DATA (11-12 MICRONS)
Atmospheric Transmissivity= Emissivity of Background=0.0

B1



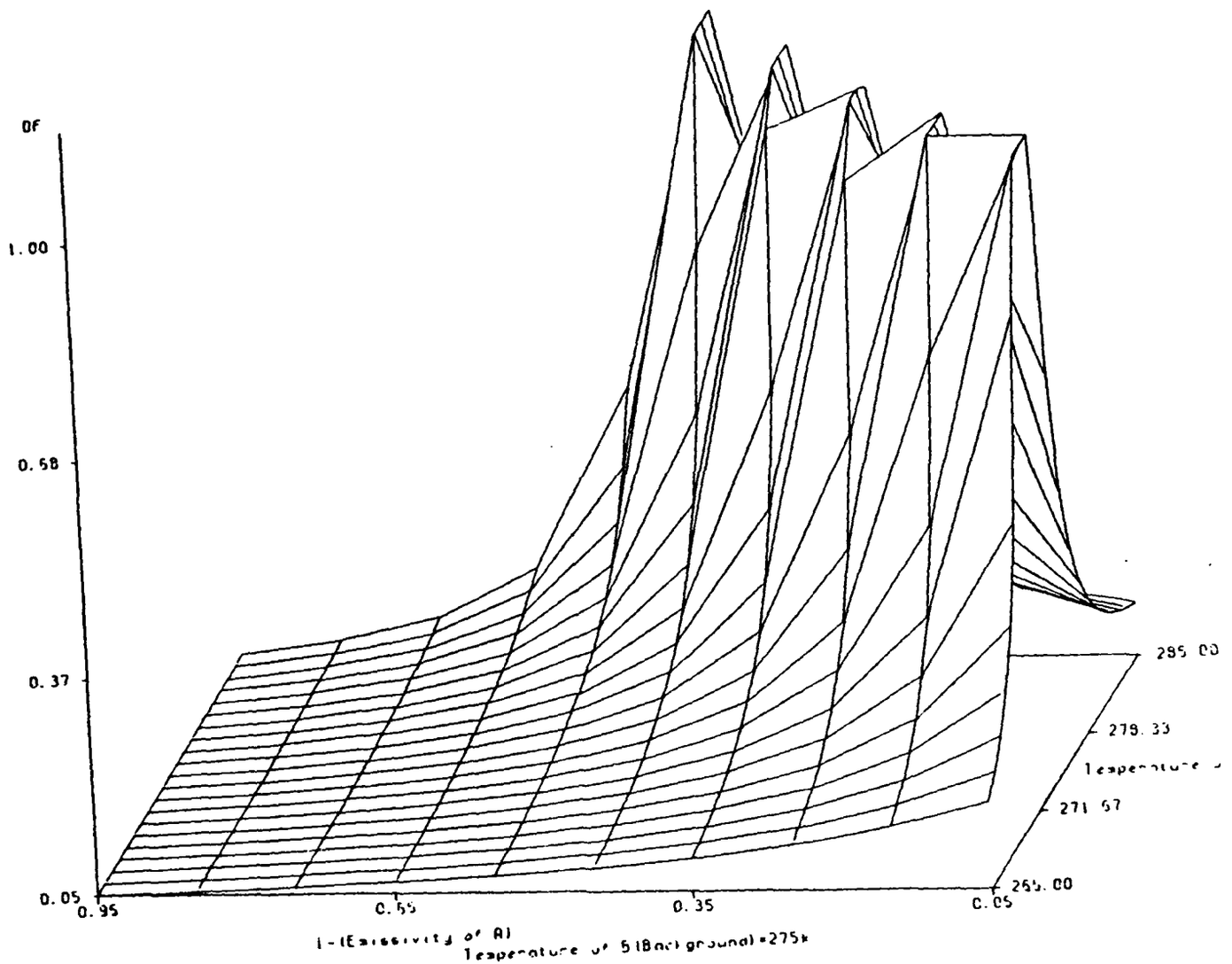
DISCRIMINATION FUNCTION
SINGLE BAND DATA (3.5-4.1MICRONS)
Atmospheric Transmission=0.7 Emissivity of B(Background)=0.35

A6



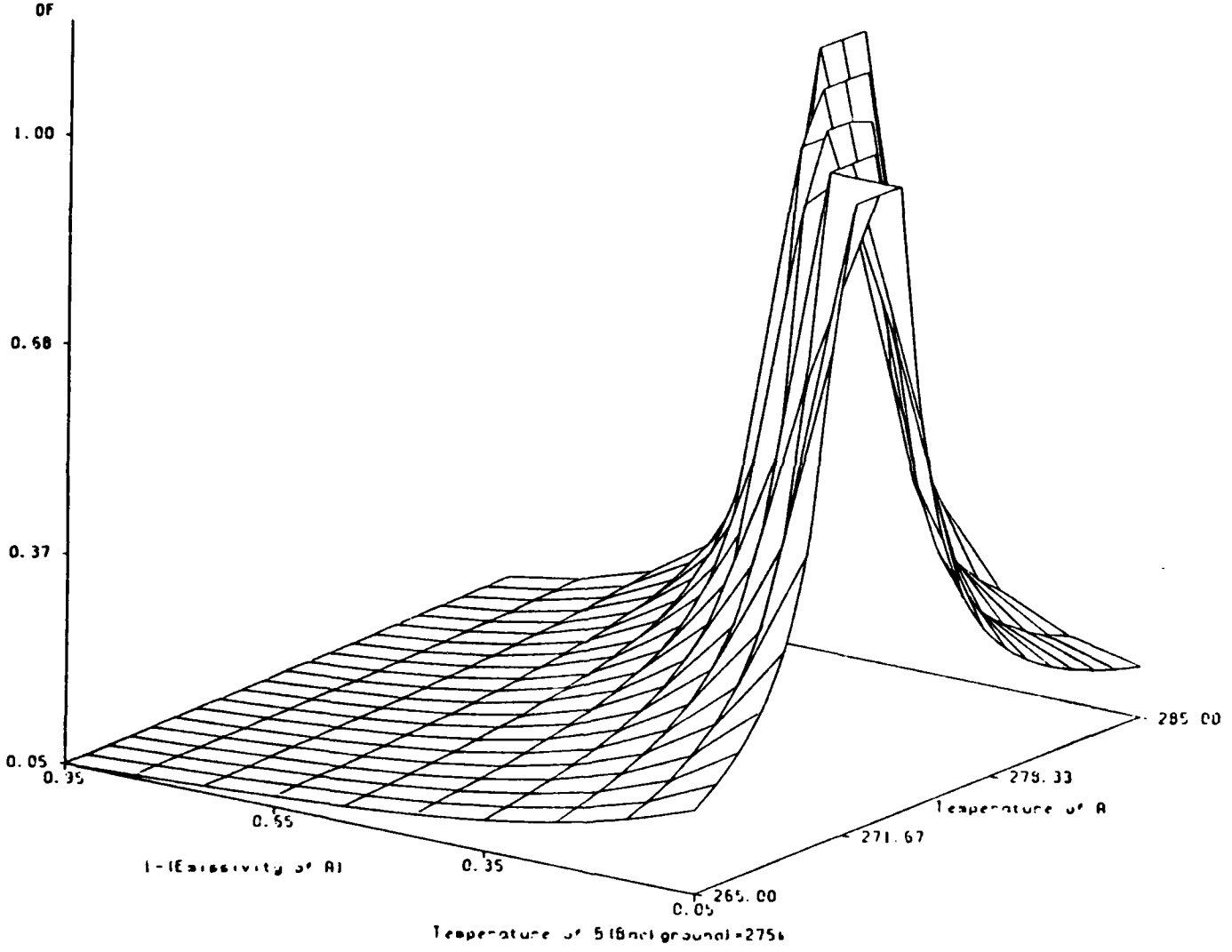
A5

DISCRIMINATION FUNCTION
SINGLE BAND DATA (3.5–4.1 MICRONS)
Atmospheric Transmission=0.7 Emissivity of Background=0.85



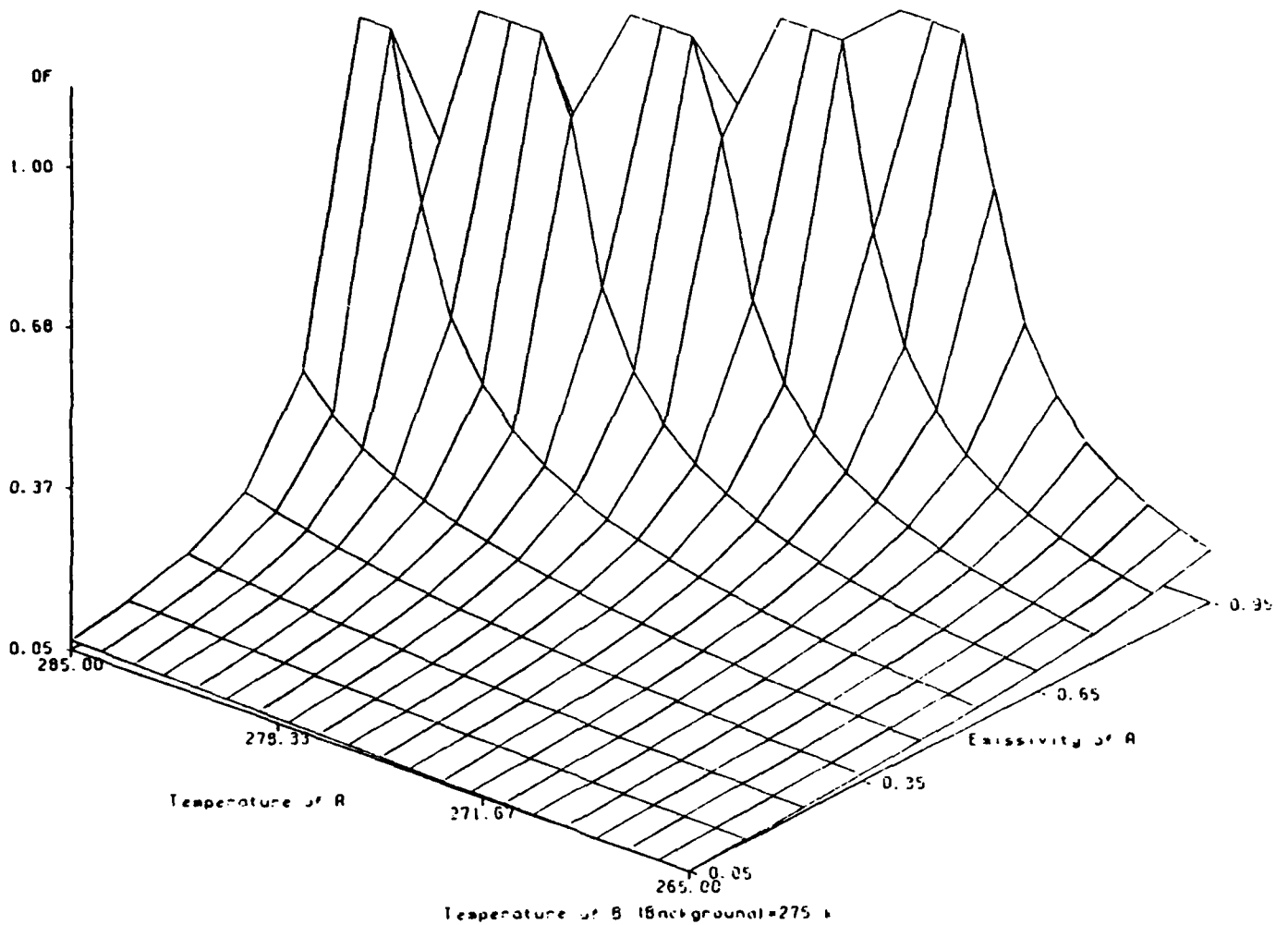
DISCRIMINATION FUNCTION
SINGLE BAND DATA (3.5-4.1 MICRONS)
Atmospheric Transmission=0.7 Emissivity of B(Background)=0.85

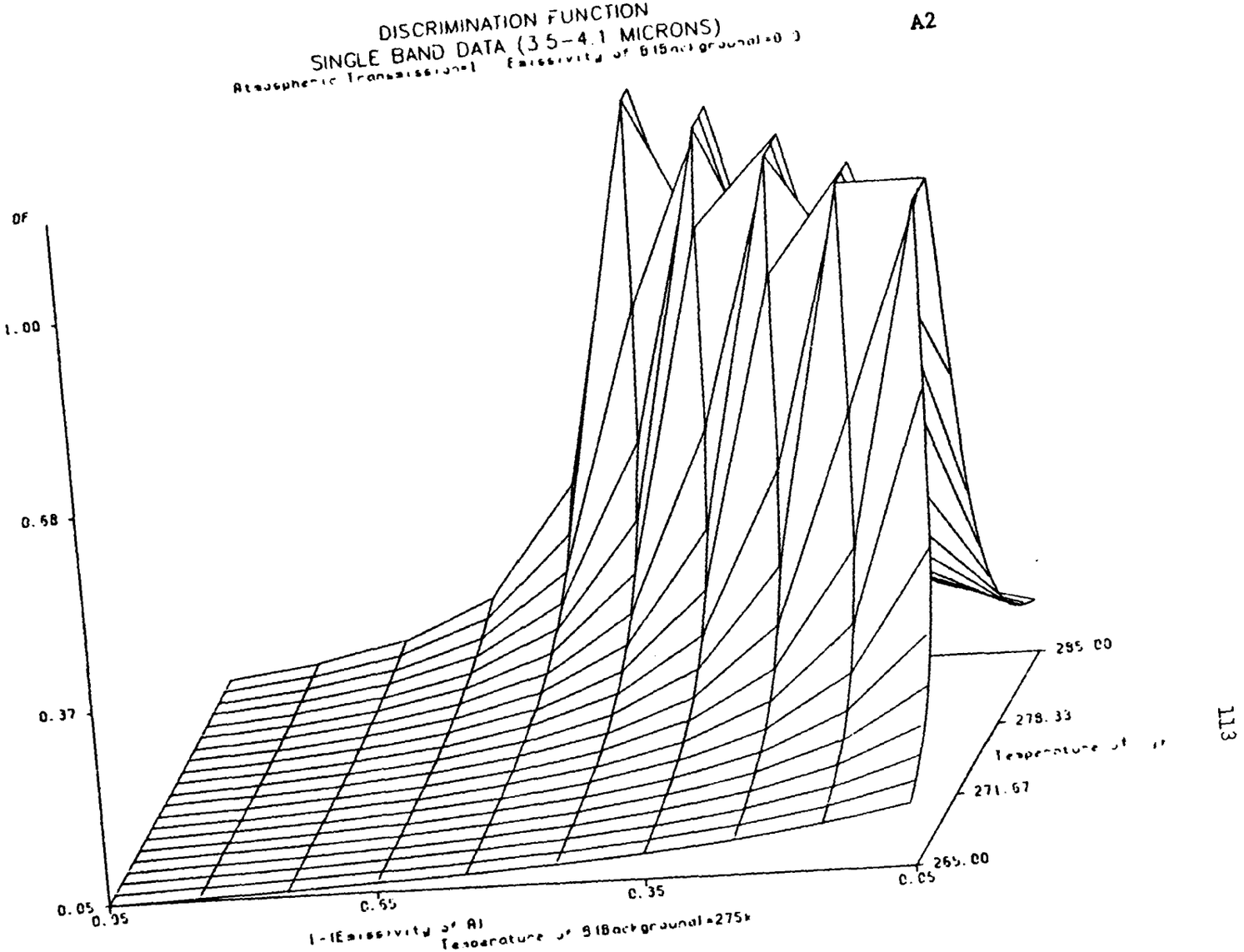
A4



DISCRIMINATION FUNCTION
SINGLE BAND DATA (3.5-4.1MICRONS)
Atmospheric Transmissions=1 Emissivity of B(Background)=0.9

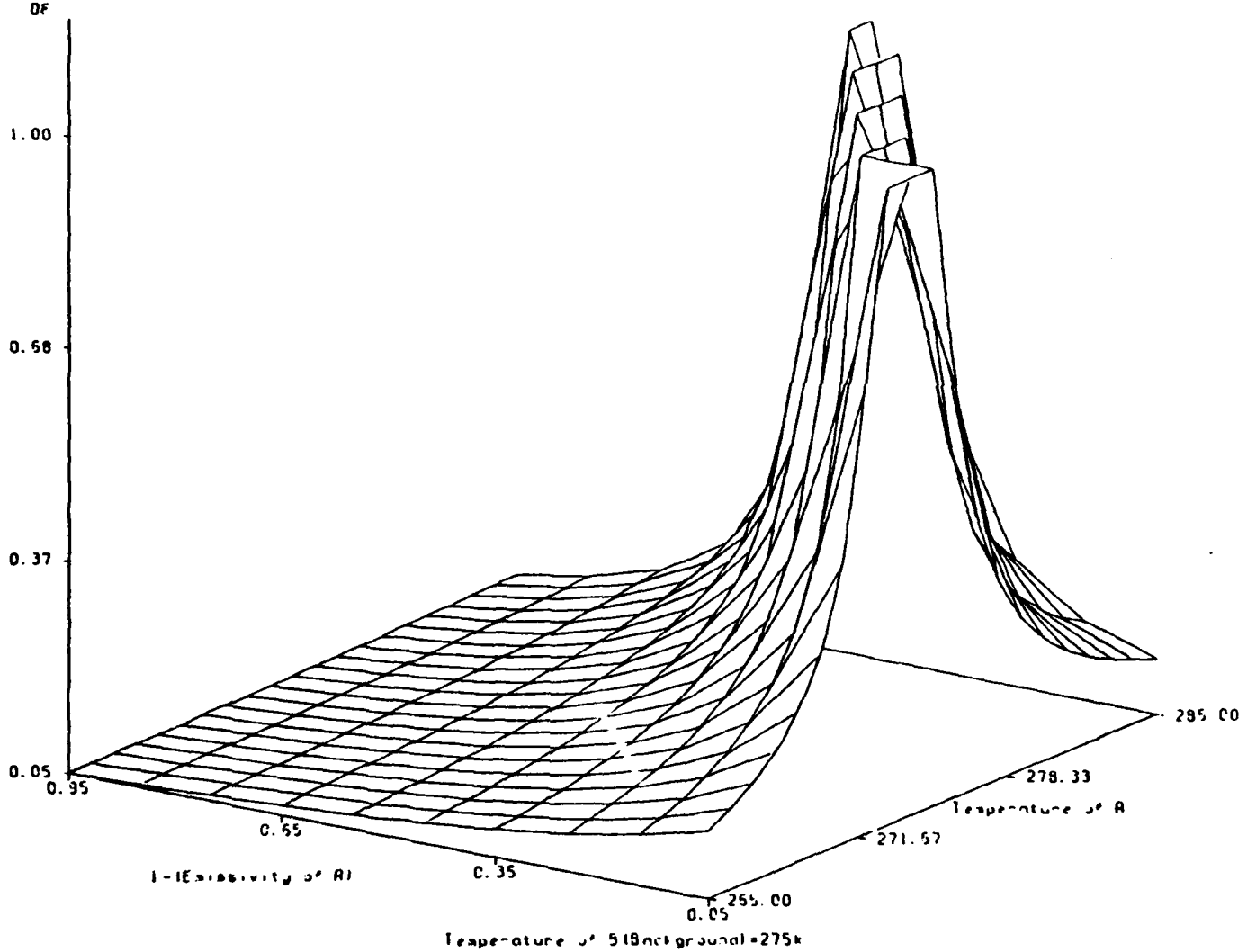
A3




DISCRIMINATION FUNCTION
SINGLE BAND DATA (3.5-4.1 MICRONS)
A2
DF
1.00
0.68
0.37
0.05
0.05
0.35
0.65
0.95
1-(Emissivity of A)
Temperature of Background=275K
265.00
271.67
278.33
285.00

DISCRIMINATION FUNCTION
SINGLE BAND DATA (3.5–4.1 MICRONS)
Atmospheric Transmissivity = .51 Emissivity of Background = 0.5

Al



THERMAL IR CASE

$$\begin{bmatrix}\text{SPECTRAL}\\ \text{RADIANCE}\\ \text{AT}\\ \text{SENSOR}\end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix}\text{SPECTRAL}\\ \text{TARGET}\\ \text{ELEMENT}\\ \text{EMISSIVITY}\\ \text{FOR GEOMETRY}\\ \text{CONSIDERED}\end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix}\text{BLACKBODY}\\ \text{RADIANT}\\ \text{EMITTANCE}\\ \text{AT TEMPERATURE}\\ \text{OF TARGET}\end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix}\text{ATMOSPHERIC}\\ \text{SPECTRAL}\\ \text{EXTINCTION}\\ \text{COEFFICIENT}\end{bmatrix}$$

$$+ \begin{bmatrix}\text{SPECTRAL}\\ \text{SKY RADIANCE}\end{bmatrix}$$

$$L_D(\theta',\phi',\lambda) = \varepsilon(\theta',\phi',\lambda) \times W(T,\lambda) \times \exp\left\{ \int_0^z \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \beta'_{ext}(\theta'',\phi'',\lambda).d\theta''.d\phi''.dz \right\}$$

$$+ L_{sky}(\theta',\phi',\lambda)$$

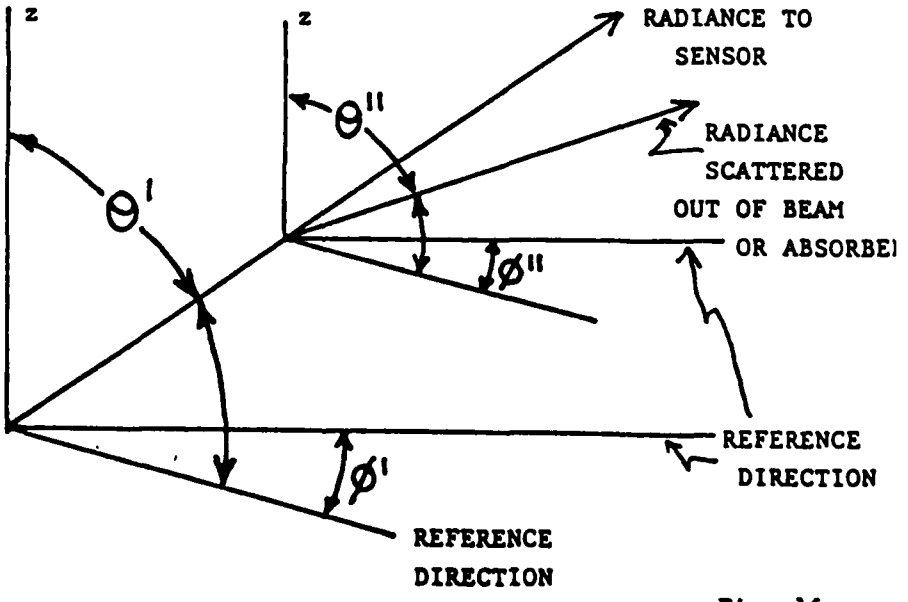


Fig. 16.

CONTRAST RATIO AS A FUNCTION OF SUB-I.F.O.V. CLOUD AND SCAN ANGLE

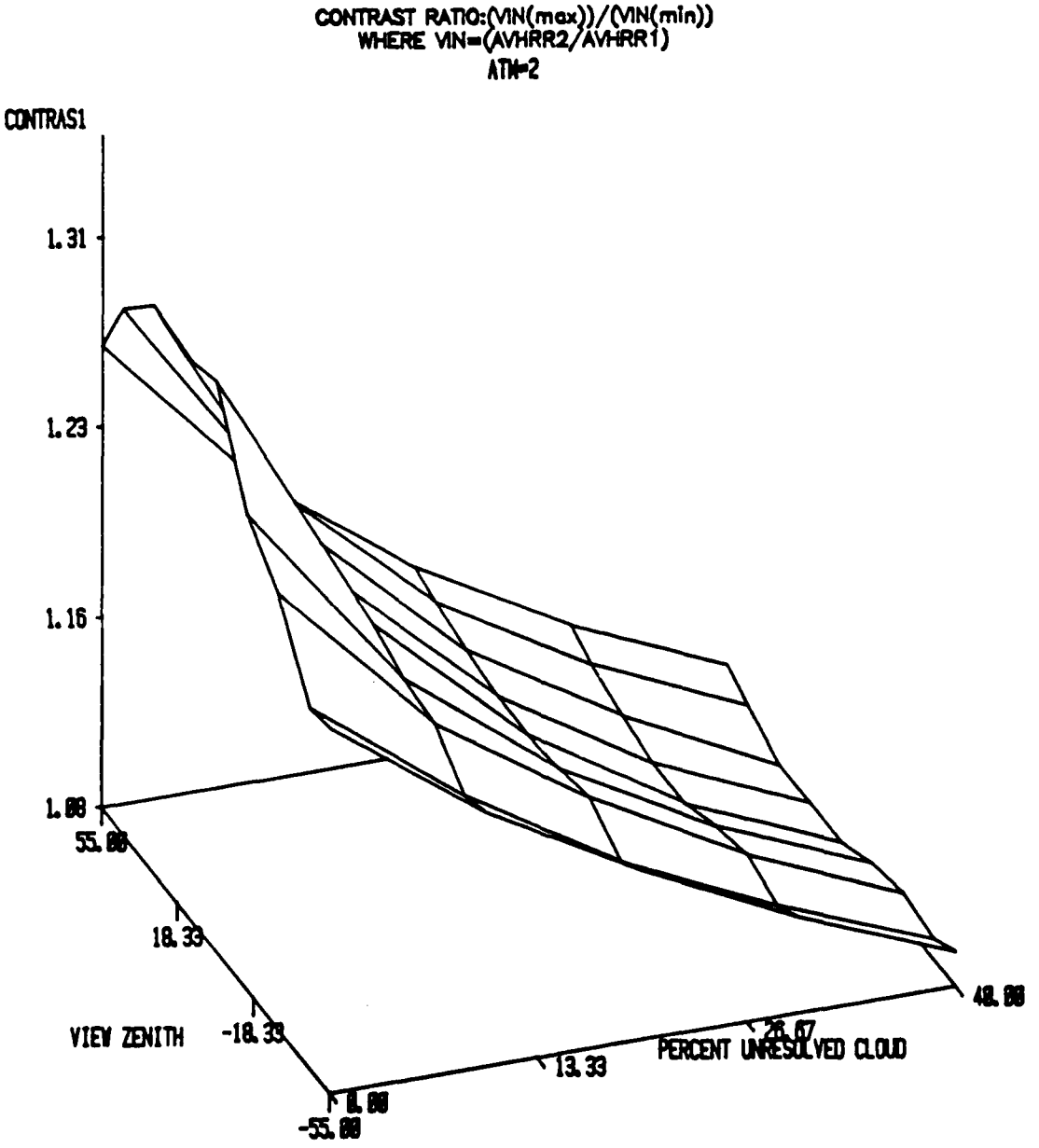
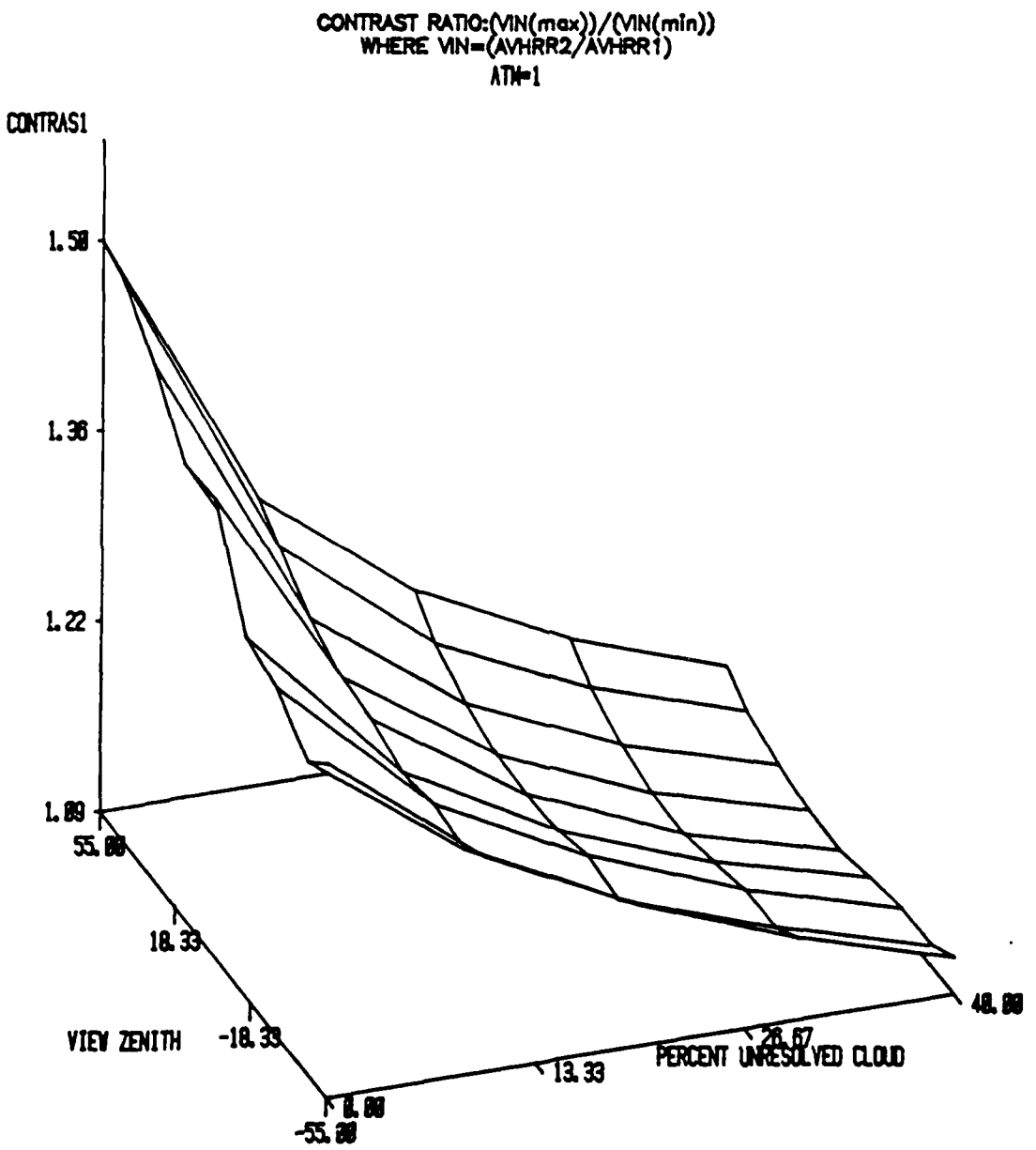


FIG. 15

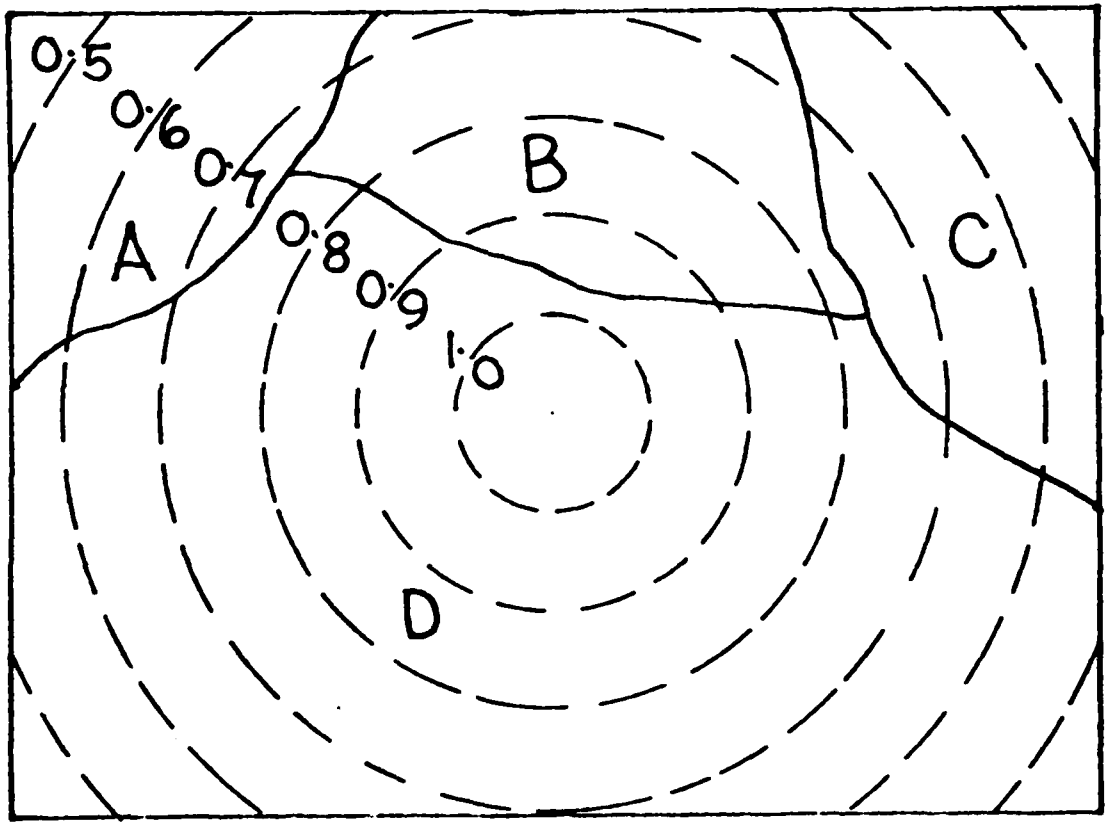
3.5 BOOT ONLY (MAX/MIN) SOIL: DRY

CONTRAST RATIO AS A FUNCTION OF SUB-I.F.O.V. CLOUD AND SCAN ANGLE



(ATM=1)=CLEAR ATMOSPHERE,(ATM=2)=TURBID
VIN(MAX)=100 WHEAT VIN(MIN)=70 WHEAT 30 SOIL
WHEAT AT 3.5 BOOT STAGE,WET SOIL

FIG. 14



A TYPICAL MIXED PIXEL. ONE OF THE ELEMENTS MAY BE UNRESOLVED CLOUD. THE CONTOURS REPRESENT THE POINT-SPREAD FUNCTION OF THE SENSOR. THE RESPONSE OF THE SENSOR TO SPECTRAL RADIANCE FROM EACH ELEMENT DEPENDS UPON ITS POSITION IN THE IFOV.

FIG. 13

FIG. 12

2. THERMAL INFRARED REGION

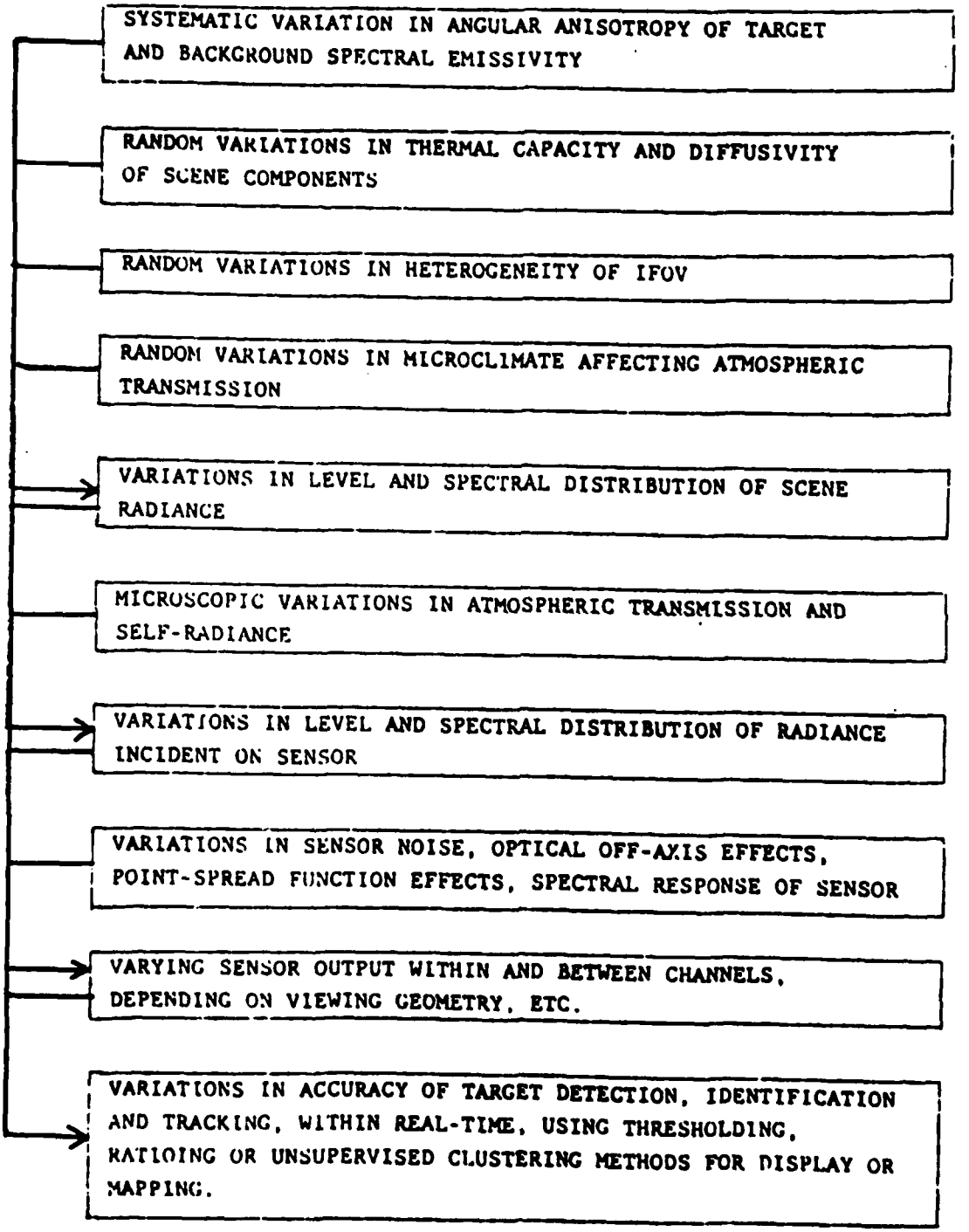
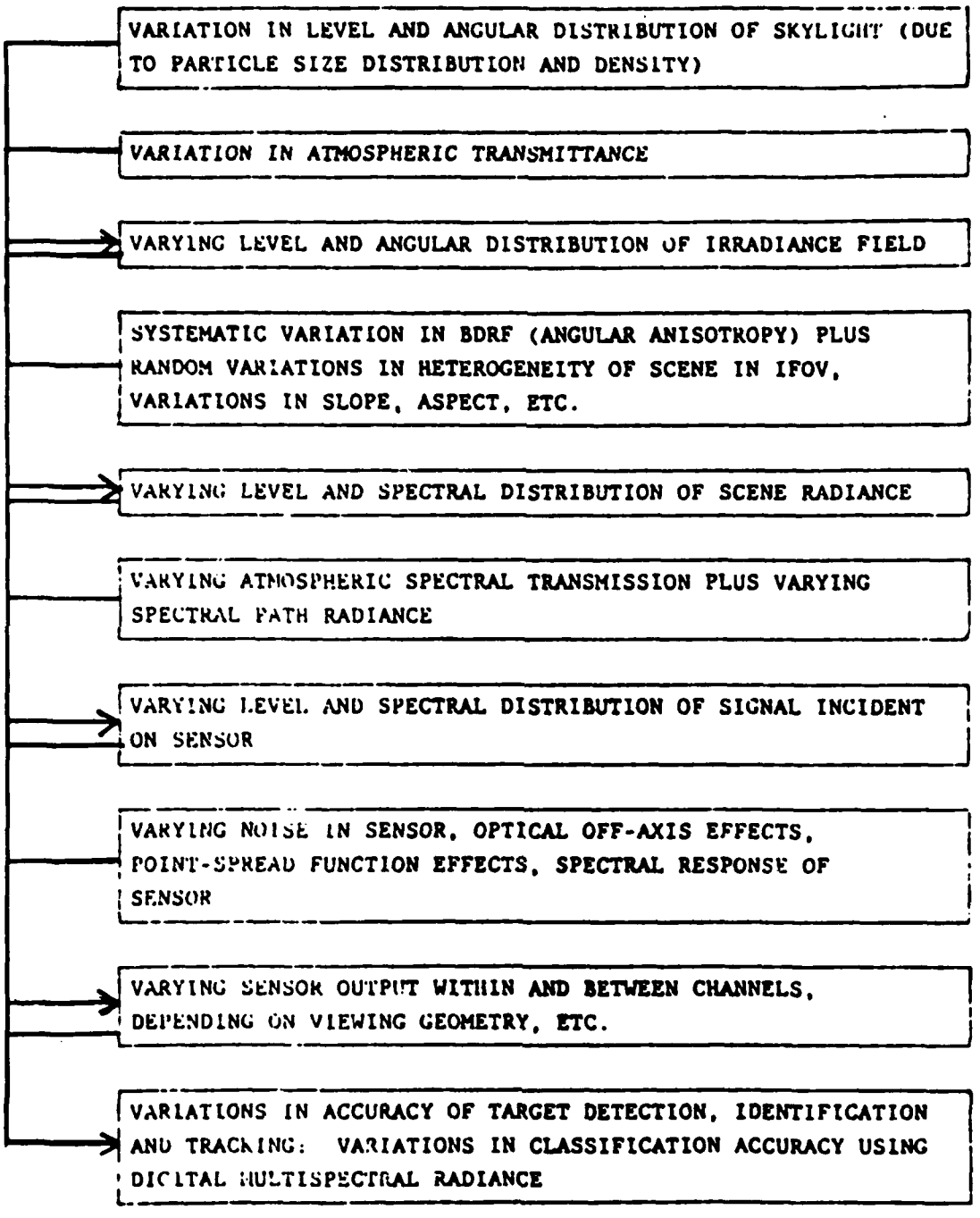


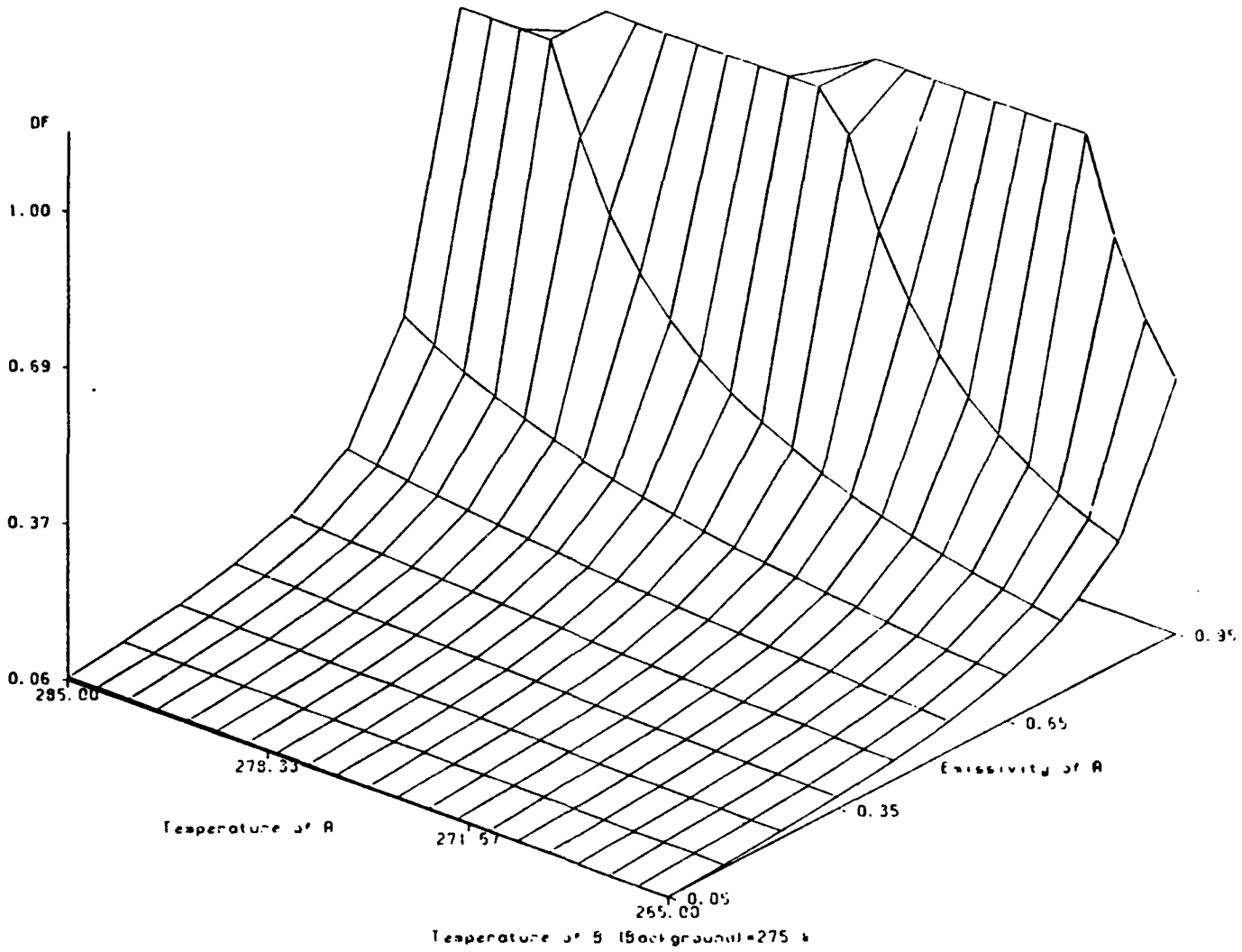
FIG. 11

1. OPTICAL-REFLECTIVE REGION



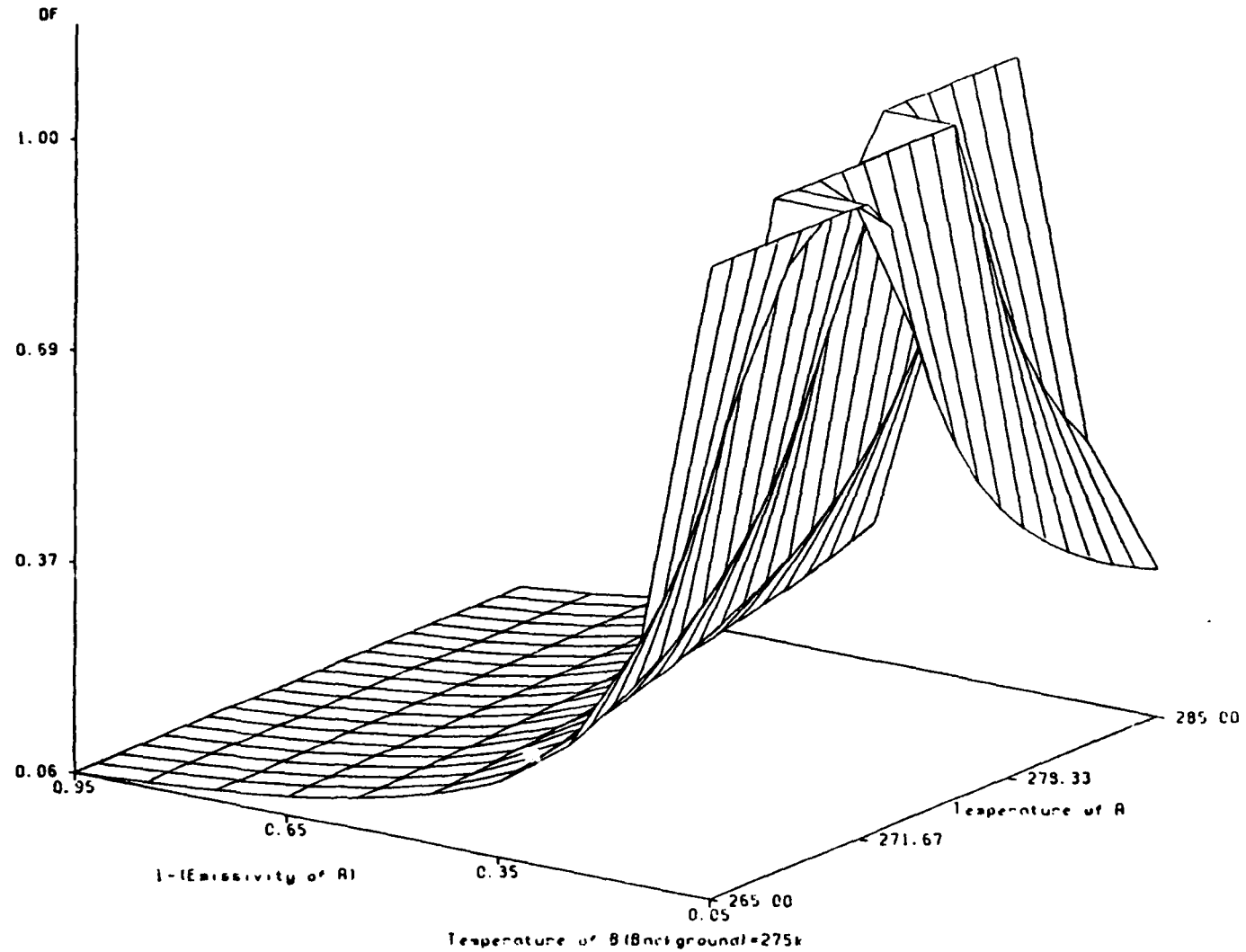
DISCRIMINATION FUNCTION
SINGLE BAND DATA (11-12MICRONS)
Atmospheric Transmissions1 Emissivity of B(Background)=0.9

B3



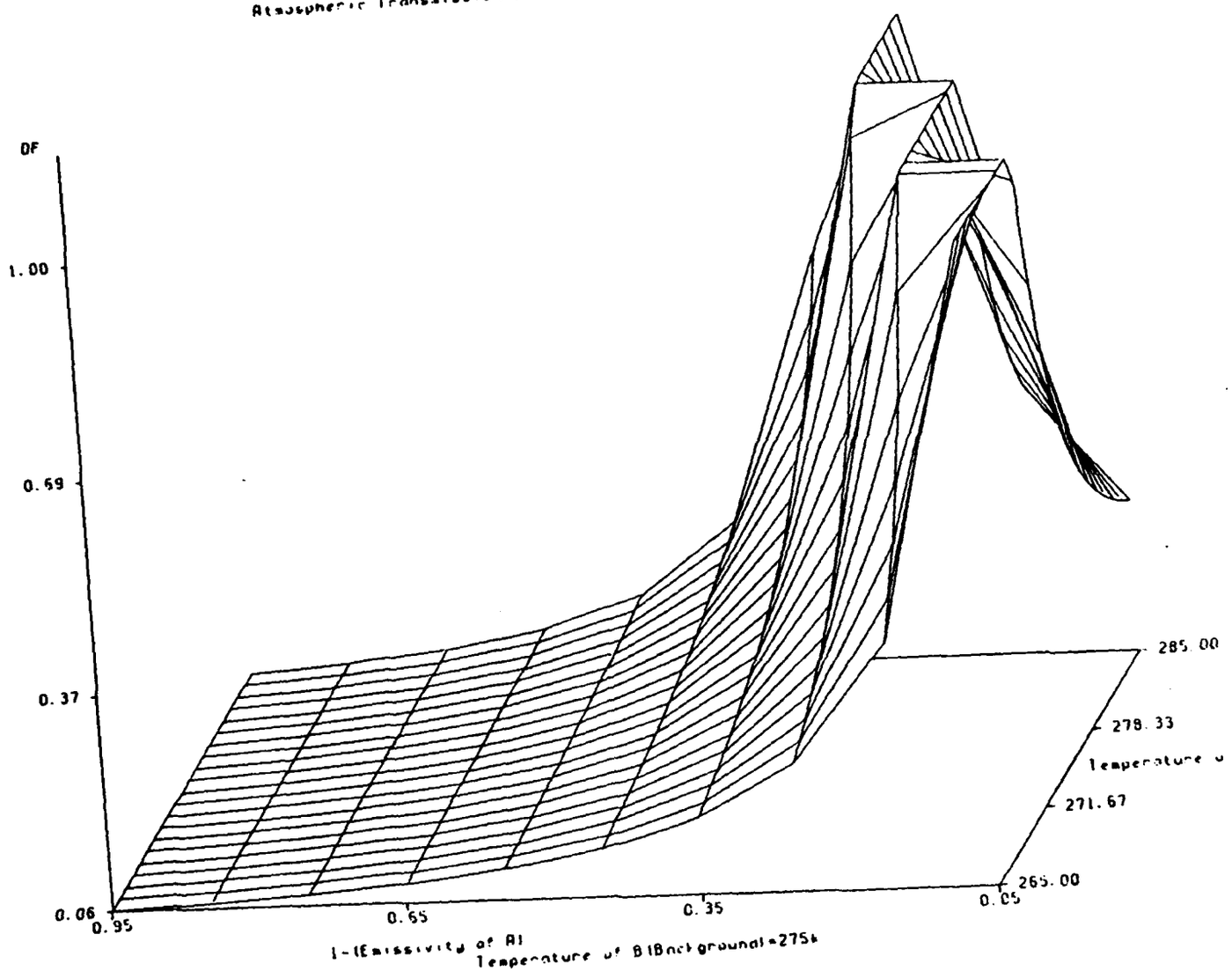
DISCRIMINATION FUNCTION
SINGLE BAND DATA (11-12 MICRONS)
Atmospheric Transmission=0.6 Emissivity of B(Background)=0.95

B4



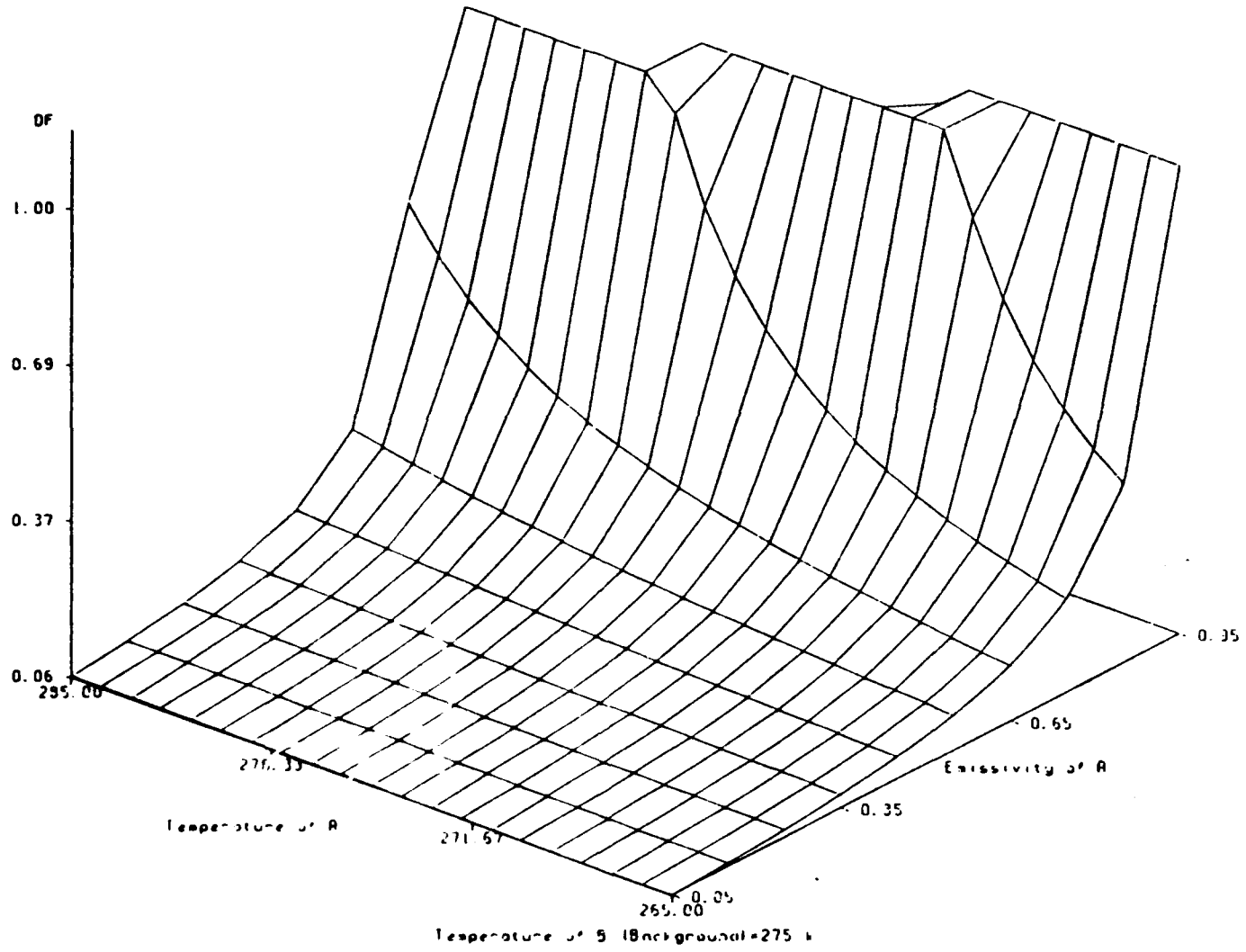
B5

DISCRIMINATION FUNCTION
SINGLE BAND DATA (11–12 MICRONS)
Atmospheric Transmission=0.6 Emissivity of Background=0.85



DISCRIMINATION FUNCTION
SINGLE BAND DATA (11-12MICRONS)
Atmospheric Transmission=0.6 Emissivity of Background=0.85

B6



DEPENDENCE OF D.F. ON RELATIVE ATMOSPHERIC TRANSMISSION IN BANDS USED TO COMPUTE RADIANCE RATIO AND ON TEMPERATURE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TARGET AND BACKGROUND

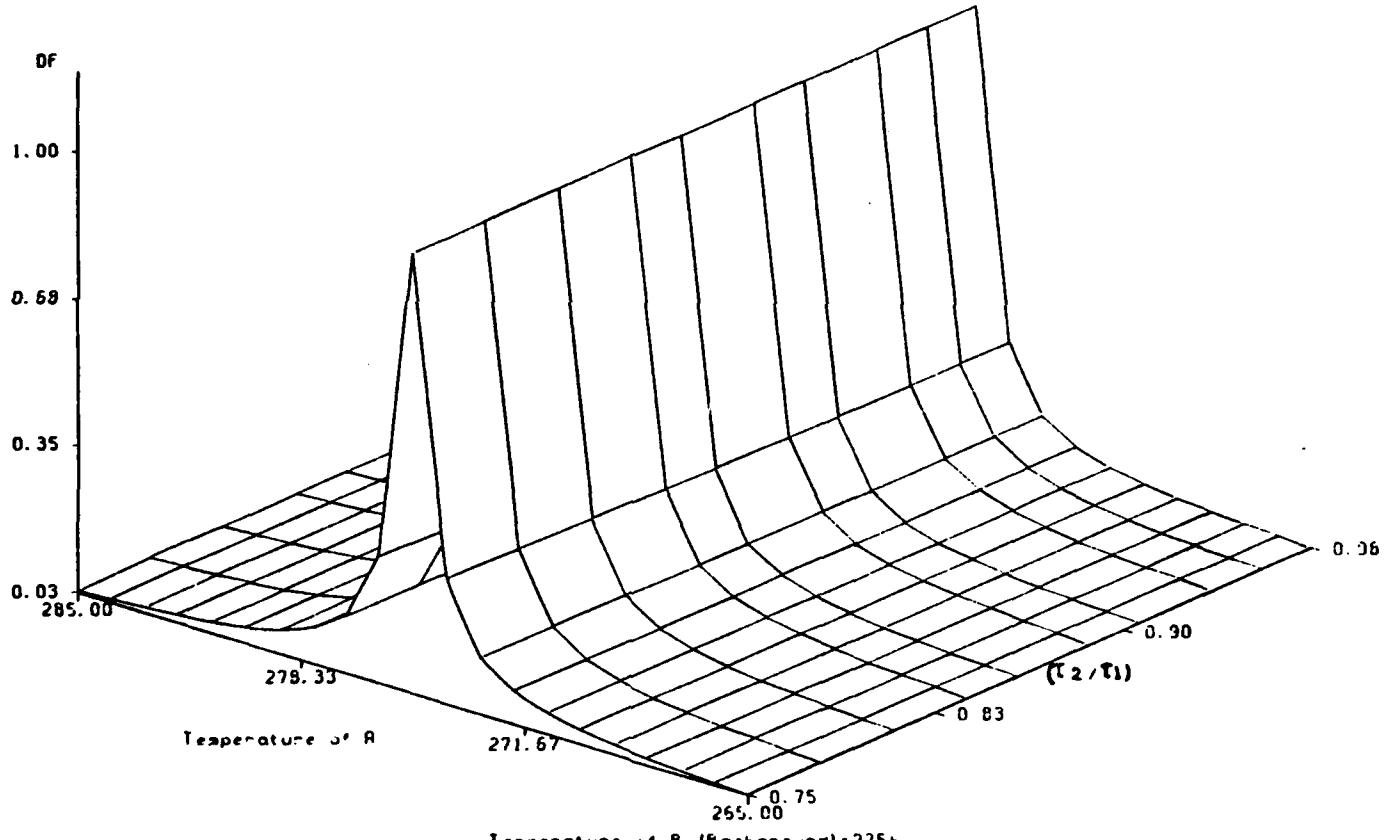
C1

Channel1 = 3.5 – 4.1 microns

Channel2 = 11 – 12 microns

Correlation Coefficient = 1

RUN=1



Temperature of B (Background) = 275k

(V. ... run1 - 5=.01 - .05 respectively

DEPENDENCE OF D.F. ON RELATIVE ATMOSPHERIC TRANSMISSION IN BANDS USED TO COMPUTE RADIANCE RATIO AND ON TEMPERATURE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TARGET AND BACKGROUND

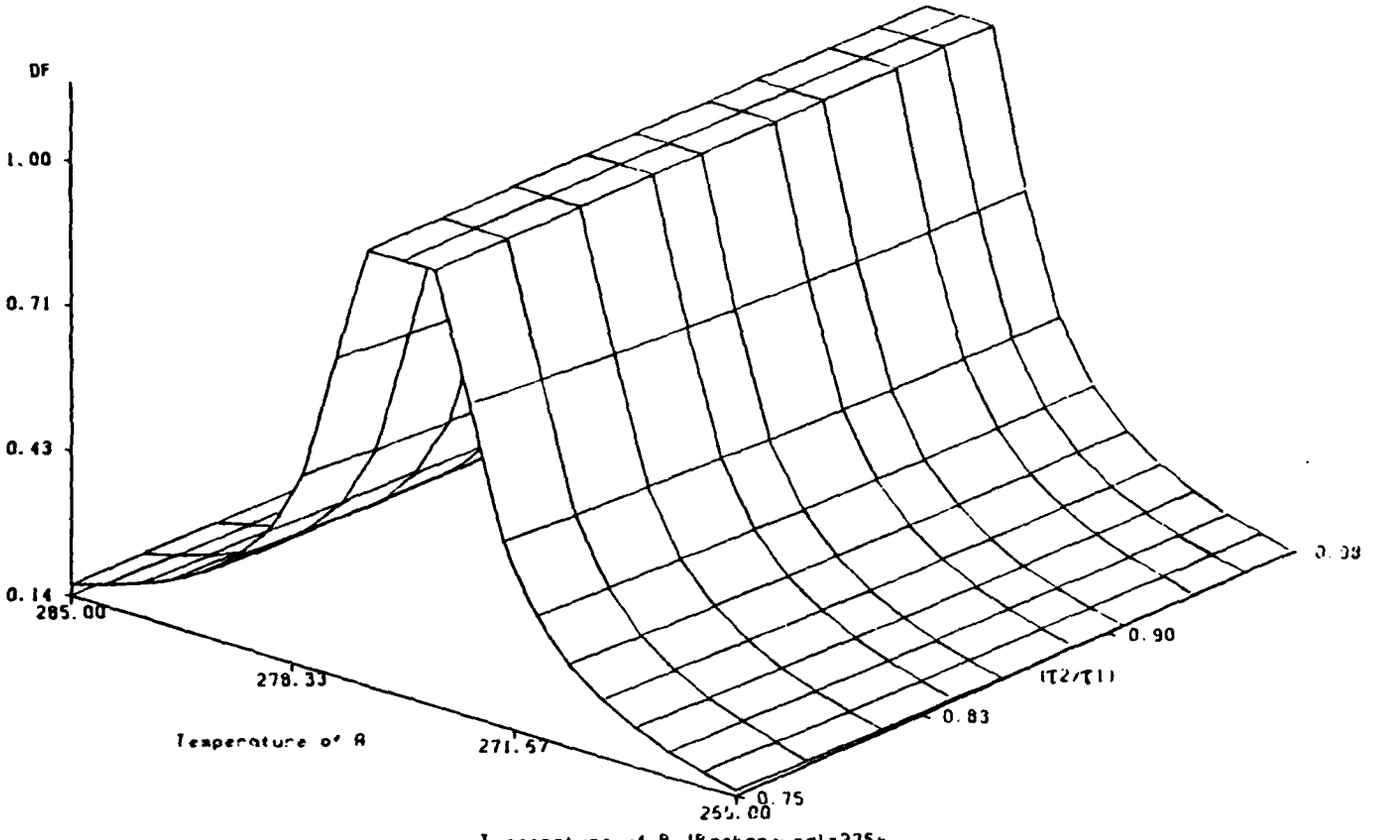
C2

Channel1 = 3.5 – 4.1 microns

Channel2 = 11 – 12 microns

Correlation Coefficient = .1

RUN=5



Temperature of B (Background=275K

C.V. --- run1-5=.01-.05 respectively

DEPENDENCE OF D.F. ON RELATIVE ATMOSPHERIC TRANSMISSION IN BANDS USED TO COMPUTE RADIANCE RATIO AND ON TEMPERATURE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TARGET AND BACKGROUND

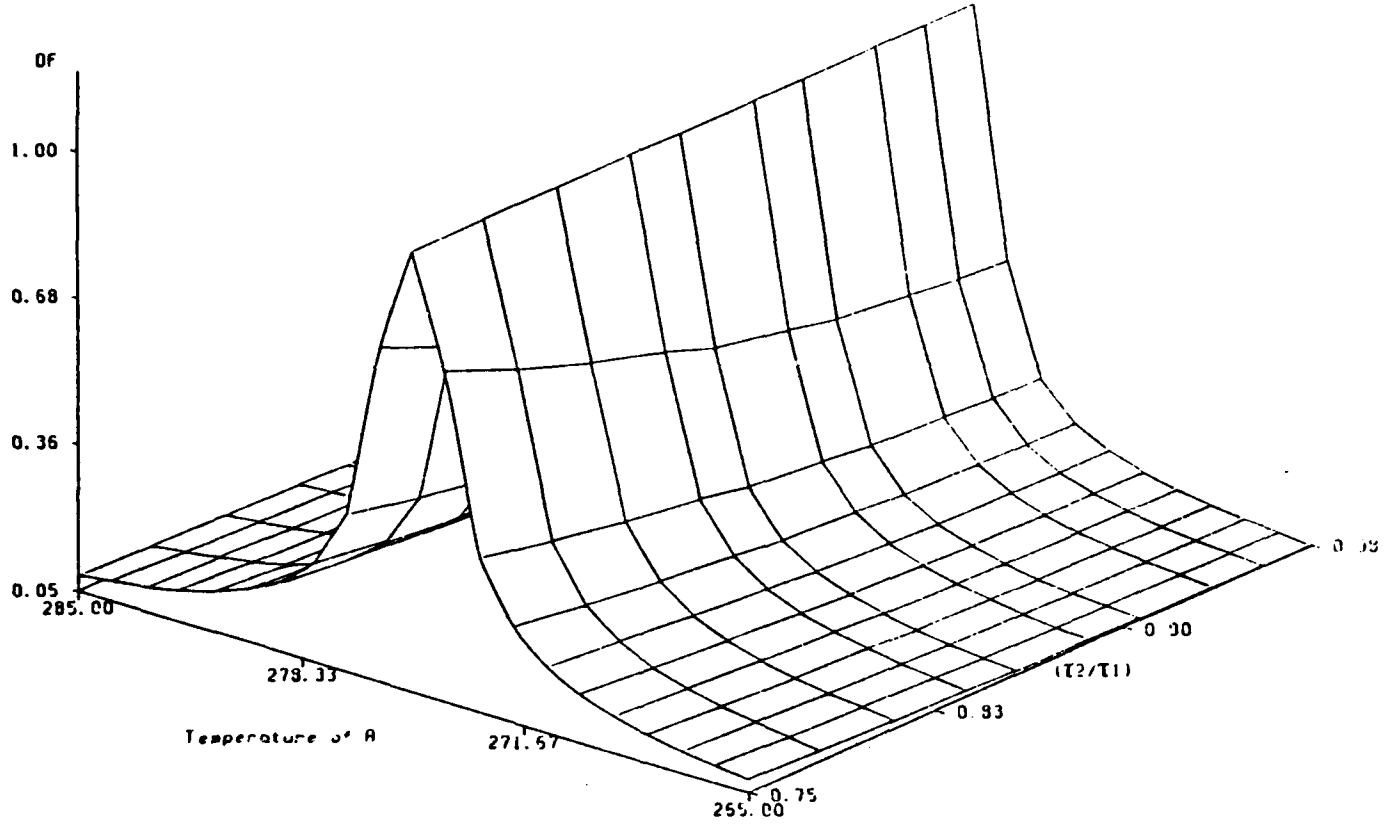
Channel1=3.5-4.1 microns

Channel2=11-12 microns

Correlation Coefficient= 9

RUN-5

C3



Temperature of B (Background=275k
C.V. --- run1-5=.01-.05 respectively

MISSION
of
Rome Air Development Center

RADC plans and executes research, development, test and selected acquisition programs in support of Command, Control Communications and Intelligence (C^3I) activities. Technical and engineering support within areas of technical competence is provided to ESD Program Offices (POs) and other ESD elements. The principal technical mission areas are communications, electromagnetic guidance and control, surveillance of ground and aerospace objects, intelligence data collection and handling, information system technology, ionospheric propagation, solid state sciences, microwave physics and electronic reliability, maintainability and compatibility.

END

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